

***VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL***

***August 14, 2017***

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Indian Brook Fire Hall, Indian Brook, on Monday, August 14, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. with Warden Bruce Morrison in the Chair.

Present were:

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:

Leanne MacEachen, Acting CAO  
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent was:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil (Health Related Absence)

**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.**

Warden Morrison thanked Councillor MacInnis for inviting Council to his district and welcomed those in attendance to Council.

**VICTORIA COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH BOARD PRESENTATION**

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Nancy Smith, Acting Chair of the Victoria County Community Health Board, and Tamara Stephens, Coordinator of Community Health Boards, Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA).

Mrs. Smith provided background information on the Victoria County Community Health Board. In 2015, when the Nova Scotia Health Authority came to be, the effects of same trickled down to the community health board and as of last September, only two members remained

active on the Board. A campaign to attract new members to the Board was undertaken with a goal to have 9 to 15 members by this spring. As of now there are 8 members on the Board and they would like to attract more membership, especially from the north of Smokey area.

She requested Council's assistance with membership as they would know their districts and people who may be willing to serve. They hope to attract a good representation from all areas of the County. They also hope to attract young people to the Board.

The Health Board is an advocacy board that supports the work of the NSHA by advising on local perspectives, issues and priorities of the community. The Health Board is working with the 2014-2017 plan that will be the standard until 2019 and a new plan is to be developed in this time. The health plan identifies issues at the community level which are compiled and sent to the district level and then on to government for approval.

Tamara Stephens advised that with the merger to one health authority, Cape Breton has been divided up to a rural side and urban side to come up with a collaborative plan to highlight the area needs. With the new districts, Cape Breton is in the Eastern Zone which includes the former GASHA (Guysborough-Antigonish-Strait Health Authority) also. The plans from each of these areas will be compiled to make a provincial plan for all these areas.

Further discussion took place and Mrs. Smith advised that she has brought with her recruitment packages which Council can take to prospective members. She also left copies of the current health plan. The only individuals excluded from membership on the community health boards are direct employees of the NSHA.

The next meeting of the Community Health Board is October 15, 2017, at which time the wellness grants will be dealt with. The funding provided by the wellness grants benefits the communities. Councillor MacInnis indicated that this funding initiated the successful seniors luncheons in his area.

Membership on the Board for the Boularderie area was discussed. The Community Health Board plays an advocacy role in a number of issues.

Prospective members applying must provide references, undergo a criminal records check and attend an interview.

After further discussion, Warden Morrison extended a thank you to the ladies for their attendance and the information provided.

**PRESENTATION OF THE NON-CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017**

Leanne MacEachen presented the Non-Consolidated Financial Statements for the Municipality of the County of Victoria for the year ended March 31, 2017.

Ms. MacEachen indicated that Grant Thornton will be coming to Council in September to present the audited Consolidated Financial Statements and the Victoria County Water Utility Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2017.

Ms. MacEachen reviewed the Non-Consolidated Operating Fund Balance Sheet showing assets and liabilities of \$4,133,910.00. Tax receivables are down approximately \$10,000.00 from the previous year.

The Non-Consolidated Statement of Operation was reviewed indicating a zero balance. The Reserve Funds sections were reviewed.

Discussion took place on tax receivables and a more aggressive strategy has been a concern of Council on a number of occasions. Leanne MacEachen advised that Pauline Davis, Director of Taxation, will be coming to Council in September to present the tax receivables collection strategy.

Further discussion took place.

**It was moved and seconded that the Non-Consolidated Financial Statements for the Municipality of the County of Victoria for the year ended March 31, 2017, be accepted. Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 17, 2017**

The minutes of the July 17, 2017, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

**It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of July 17, 2017, be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

The status of the purchase of the Alderwood van was questioned and it was indicated that nothing has been heard since the Council presentation.

**It was moved and seconded that appropriate recognition be published congratulating and thanking Sandy Hudson for his years of service to the Municipality as CAO and wishing him well in his retirement. Motion carried.**

Councillor Patterson indicated that the Minister of Seniors is available to attend the launch of the Age Friendly Plan on any Friday in September and it was indicated that the best date would be September 15, 2017.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 31, 2017**

The July 31, 2017, minutes of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

**It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of July 31, 2017, be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

The Blue DOT declaration was discussed and it being used as indicating that Municipality is against certain issues is not acceptable and Paul Strome has been asked in the past not to reference Victoria County in any correspondence he issues.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Paul Strome reiterating the fact that he is to not reference Victoria County in any correspondence he issues and that if he does, there may be potential consequences. Motion carried.**

The Blue DOT declaration is to be referred to Jocelyn Bethune for review of the contents.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**UNION OF NOVA SCOTIA MUNICIPALITIES CONFERENCE**

The Annual UNSM Conference will be held at The Westin in Halifax from November 7-10, 2017. Councillors expressed an interest in attending and eight rooms will be booked at The Westin.

**FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES 2018**

The Annual Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference will be held in Halifax in June, 2018, and it was indicated that all Councillors can attend this event.

As rooms will be filling up for this event, it was indicated that rooms should be booked for this conference.

Council was advised that rooms have already been booked for this event.

**PROVINCIAL REGIONAL ENTERPRISE NETWORK CONFERENCE**

The first provincial Regional Enterprise Network Conference will be held on September 7-8, 2017, at the Inverary Resort. There is no charge for this event but registration is required. All Councillors are encouraged to attend if available.

### **UNSM RESOLUTIONS**

The UNSM is hosting a meeting on Thursday, September 7, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. at the Court House, Baddeck, to seek membership input into the resolutions that originated from the five regional meetings previously held.

### **DISTRICT CONCERNS**

#### **District #8**

Councillor MacDonald indicated that he was contacted by a resident looking for better directional signage at Cabot Landing Provincial Park as cars turn in her driveway and are backing out onto the Bay St. Lawrence Road and this is a safety concern.

Contact will be made with the Department of Natural Resources to have appropriate directional signage at the Cabot Landing Provincial Park.

It was also indicated that there are two signs – one in Millville and one at Exit 7 on the TCH 105, with regard to Cabot Landing that are in disrepair. This should be also addressed with DNR.

Councillor MacDonald indicated that he has had a number of calls regarding the condition of the roadway to the Co-op Fisheries on the Bay St. Lawrence Road.

It was felt the first step would be to contact the local Harbour Authority and Councillor MacInnis indicated he would provide the contacts to Councillor MacDonald.

Councillor MacDonald indicated that a number of residents have contacted him regarding removal of derelict vehicles. This is not a service provided by the Municipality and there are individuals in the area that will pick up these vehicles for a fee.

Councillor MacDonald questioned on the status of the tender for the Dingwall Transfer Station building. It was indicated that the tender closed some time ago and Robert Dauphinee will be contacted to check on the tender status.

#### **District #7**

Councillor Budge indicated that at the new bridge at Neil's Brook, Neil's Harbour, a right hand yield sign has been erected when you are turning into Neil's Harbour, and he does not see the need for this sign.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Cape Breton Highlands National Park questioning why there is a yield sign entering Neil's Harbour at the new bridge at Neil's Brook. Motion carried.**

**District #4**

Councillor MacInnis brought up the concern of the lack of mowing along the roadsides.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be written to the Minister of TIR questioning on the lack of both mowing and brush cutting along the roadways in the County. Motion carried.**

The cost the Municipality pays for streetlights was questioned. Investigation into the cost and comparative costs with similar size municipalities is to be obtained.

Councillor MacInnis indicated that he attended the Cabot Trail upgrade announcement 11 years ago and is pleased to advise that the last section of this road improvement announcement is presently being undertaken in the Tarbot area.

**District #2**

Councillor MacLeod indicated that she travelled across the Englishtown Ferry recently and brought up the fact that vehicles are hitting a significant bump to get on the ferry.

Councillor MacInnis advised that the ferry is not being docked in far enough resulting in the bump entering the ferry.

This concern is to be added to the letter to TIR.

Councillor MacLeod brought up the cost of the fine for vehicles parked illegally at the Irving/Tim Hortons. Fines are \$60.00 at present and she felt they should be increased to \$250.00.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded concerning increasing the fine for illegally parked vehicles at the Irving/Tim Hortons from \$60.00 to \$250.00. Motion carried.**

The RCMP will be coming to Council in September and this issue can be addressed at that time.

The purchase of speed radar signs to be located in areas of the County was discussed and there are different options available which have been investigated. Information will be received from Robert Dauphinee on this matter.

**District #6**

Deputy Warden Dauphinee requested that the funding approved for the North Victoria Six Ports Harbour Authority be held until a presentation is received from this organization.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee advised that he has received complaints from business owners with regard to the excess garbage and use of washrooms by tourists during the busy summer months.

Whether the Municipality could assume responsibility for collecting this garbage was discussed and the possibility of considering washroom and garbage facilities was discussed.

**It was moved and seconded that that the possibility of establishing public washroom/garbage facilities be referred to budget. Motion carried.**

**District #8**

Councillor MacDonald indicated that he has been receiving call from residents of Meat Cove concerning the lack of road maintenance.

**It was moved and seconded to refer this issue to Inverness County as Meat Cove is in their jurisdiction. Motion carried.**

The possibility of arranging a meeting with Minister Lloyd Hines, Department of TIR, during the UNSM Conference in Halifax is to be investigated.

**District #5**

Councillor Patterson questioned on the status of SPCA coverage in the Boularderie area.

Council was advised that the by-law has been approved, procedures passed, insurance addressed and the solicitor is drafting up a fine schedule. Service by the SPCA for this area is closer, but not in effect yet.

The Victoria County Dog Controllers are to receive the Summary Offence training to allow them to issue tickets as outlined in the Dog Control By-Law.

**District #3**

Warden Morrison brought up concern with regard to parking at the Victoria County Memorial Hospital, Baddeck. Council approved that the excess funds contributed by the Municipality be redirected to parking lot improvements at the hospital. He felt it was imperative that this work commence now and not during later unseasonable weather conditions.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the appropriate representatives at the Nova Scotia Health Authority requesting that immediate action be taken to address the parking expansion at the Victoria County Memorial Hospital. Motion carried.**

**It was moved and seconded that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to the organizers of Festiville Baddeck on the success of their two summer events. Motion carried.**

Warden Morrison advised that he forwarded correspondence to Council with regard to Victoria County Creates for Council's consideration.

Warden Morrison indicated that he was in contact with Raven Hill with regard to recruitment for the CAO position and will forward on the information to Council when received.

### **District #1**

Councillor MacNeil had provided his district concerns which included the status of the completion of the Gills Point Road, mowing along the roadsides and concern about the water line on the John Neil George Road which is caving in. These will be added to the letter to be forwarded to TIR.

**It was moved and seconded that recognition be forwarded to the Community of Washabuck on their bicentennial. Motion carried.**

### **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The public in attendance were provided the opportunity to address Council and one item brought forward was concern on tax collection and whether non-residents could be levied a higher tax rate than residents.

This matter was looked into some time ago and it was felt it was time to investigate the non-resident ownership issue again.

The matter of the roadways in the Municipality was brought up. Roads are a provincial responsibility and the Municipality can only act in an advocacy role in this regard. Keith Bain, MLA, would be the provincial contact and there is also a TIR call centre in Sydney that residents can contact.



A resident brought up the idea of a “share shed” at the solid waste management facilities that could be established where salvaged materials could be placed for the public to access. There is a great deal of good items that could be re-used that are being destroyed.

Investigation is being presently undertaken with providing some type of facility for this purpose.

The next Tax Sale has been advertised in the *Cape Breton Post* for August 29, 2017, and it is to be included on the Victoria County website.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

A request was received from the Cape Breton Firefighters Association with regard to the Municipality laying a helmet in recognition of deceased fire members. Contact will be made with the Chief Officers Committee in this regard.

The Provincial Fire Services report has been received from the UNSM and Council were provided with the report. Shawn Andrews, Fire Services Coordinator for Guysborough County is to be invited to the September Council meeting.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee indicated that GolfNorth may also request to attend the September meeting of Council.

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, it was moved to adjourn at 2:35 p.m.**

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Leanne MacEachen, Acting CAO