

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
October 17, 2017

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, October 17, 2017, 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:

Leanne MacEachen, Acting CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent was:

District #7 – Wayne Budge

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Warden Morrison presented the agenda for approval. He indicated an In Camera meeting would be held later in the meeting.

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

VIETNAM MISSION PRESENTATION

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Carla Arsenault, COO, Cape Breton Partnership, and Brenda Chisholm-Beaton, Mayor of the Town of Port Hawkesbury, who were in attendance to present on the June mission to Vietnam that they, Warden Morrison and Councillor MacLeod attended.

The ladies gave a presentation on Partnerships for Municipal Innovation – Local Economic Development. This project was coordinated by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. The project includes 2 two-week missions per year and hosting 2 study visits over 4 years with delegations from overseas partners, in this case, Vietnam. Travel, accommodation and meal expenses are covered by Global Affairs Canada.

This project is with the Association of Cities of Vietnam. They are a non-governmental organization representing 117 cities and towns. Vietnam's population is in excess of 92.7 million. The objectives of the project are to develop a strategic plan for 2017-2020; develop capacity in terms of financial sustainability, human resources and planning, training and knowledge sharing for its members.

This project launched in June, 2017 and will continue until 2020. The first mission to Vietnam in June was outlined to Council. Four days were spent in Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam. The population of this city is approximately \$9 million and it is home to the Association of Cities of Vietnam. Four days were also spent in Can Tho, the 4th largest city in Vietnam.

Ms. Arsenault outlined and showed photos of the unique culture; contrast between old and new infrastructure; traffic; poor living conditions; incredible food; happy children; the floating market; eco-tourism; and the meetings held with business associations.

What was learned is that despite the differences, we are all the same. Going forward the next steps will be communicating with the partners, completing the project plan, a 2nd trip to Vietnam in November, 2017, and the return Vietnam mission to Canada in May/June, 2018 in conjunction with the FCM Conference in Halifax.

The expected outcomes of this project were outlined and the ladies answered various questions of Council.

Warden Morrison and Councillor MacLeod indicated it was a great experience and if any other Council members ever have the opportunity to go it is absolutely worthwhile.

Ms. Arsenault indicated that the second visit to Vietnam will be in November, 2017 and she and one other person, unknown as yet, will be attending.

Warden Morrison acknowledged Keith MacDonald, President and CEO, Cape Breton Partnership, who was in attendance.

Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Ms. Arsenault and Mayor Chisholm-Beaton for the excellent presentation.

ONE CAPE BRETON SUMMIT

Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton indicated that the Town of Port Hawkesbury will be hosting the *One Cape Breton – Future Forward Leaders' Summit*, at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre on November 23-24, 2017.

This gathering will include Mi'kmaw leaders from the five First Nation communities; as well as leaders from the five municipalities in Cape Breton.

Mayor Chisholm-Beaton outlined the plans for the session. With support from *Engage Nova Scotia*, a full, interactive two-day agenda is planned that will enable the building of key relationships; learning from promising new developments and stepping up to greater cooperation for a strong and sustainable Cape Breton Island.

Registration is now open for the event and rooms have been set aside at the Maritime Inn, and all Councillors were encouraged to attend.

JOHN BAIN, EASTERN DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSION

Courtesy of Council was extended to John Bain, Director, Eastern District Planning Commission, who was in attendance to discuss zoning.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee brought forward this request at a prior meeting concerning initiating the zoning process for the Ingonish area.

Attempts were made a number of years ago with regard to zoning in the Ingonish area. The EDPC held open houses that were poorly attended and no interest was shown at that time. Deputy Warden Dauphinee indicated that times have changed and now there are conversations in the area about zoning and where to begin. Concern has been expressed from business owners with regard to no protection on what can be built on a neighbouring property.

John Bain expressed an interest in again conducting open houses in the Ingonish area to determine interest and indicate he would bring staff along with him. The timeline for holding the open house sessions was questioned and it was felt that January, 2018, would be a good time.

The Ingonish Development Society has interest in this initiative and will be at the table for zoning discussions.

Mr. Bain indicated that the Village of Baddeck Planning Area documents can be taken to the sessions as a reference and it was indicated that members of the Planning Advisory Committee could also attend.

Parks Canada involvement was discussed and they could be advised of the open houses. Advertisement of these sessions will be done by various sources, i.e. Ads, Facebook, websites, etc.

A general document for County-wide zoning was discussed. This is something that could be investigated. The format for County-wide zoning has already been accomplished with the Wind Turbine By-Law and Strategy.

Discussion took place on dangerous and unsightly premises throughout the Municipality and John Bain provided an update and indicated that Sean Donovan, Administrator of Dangerous

and Unsightly Premises will be conducting a review on Tuesday, October 24, 2017, and a further update can be provided after that time.

RECESS

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Warden Morrison welcomed representatives from Victoria County Fire Departments to Council. Greg Organ, Chief, Neil's Harbour/New Haven Volunteer Fire Department, was the spokesperson for the group.

At the September 12, 2017, a presentation was made to Council by Shawn Andrews, Director of Fire, Emergency and IT Services, Municipality of the District of Guysborough. Mr. Andrews provided an overview of the advantage of his position and indicated it takes the burden of the fire chiefs. Council indicated at that meeting that they felt the Chief Officers Committee should meet to discuss the Fire Services Coordinator position and other fire issues and bring their recommendations back to Council.

Mr. Organ indicated that a meeting of the Chief Officers Committee was held on September 27, 2017, and a motion was passed that Victoria County be requested to hire a Fire Services Coordinator for the Municipality.

Warden Morrison requested that the Municipality be provided with a formal copy of the motion and discussions can begin between the Chief Fire Officers, Fire Departments and the Municipality.

It was indicated that this request would not affect current budgets and would be for the 2018/19 year.

It was moved and seconded to accept the Chief Fire Officers motion regarding a Fire Services Coordinator and refer this matter to budget. Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Chief Officers Committee is November 22, 2017, in Indian Brook.

It was indicated that Darren MacAulay and Andrew Fricker were appointed by the Chief Officers Committee to be fire department representatives on the Committee to discuss the Fire Services Coordinator.

It was moved and seconded that Councillors MacDonald, MacLeod, Budge and Warden Morrison be Council's representatives on the Committee to discuss the Fire Services Coordinator position. Motion carried.

Councillor MacNeil is to check on his status as a Fire Department member and if not a member, he can also serve on the Committee.

The Fire Department representatives were excused at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

The minutes of the September 25, 2017, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of September 25, 2017, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

TAX COLLECTION UPDATE

Leanne MacEachen provided a tax collection update as of today's date. At present there is \$2.6 million owing, with \$1.5 million being current. This time last year there was \$2.3 million owed of which \$1.3 million was current.

Tax reminder notices have just gone out and efforts in collecting will continue with daily phone calling and other means.

It was felt that information should be spread through the website, Facebook and other means that the collection of tax arrears is a priority item for Council.

Whether statistical information could be provided to Council on whether they are residents/non-residents, are regular delinquent taxpayers, etc. Leanne MacEachen indicated she may be able to pull some information from the system in this regard.

Warden Morrison indicated that tax collection will be a standing agenda item and a further update will be received at the next meeting.

AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY TEAM

Councillor Patterson indicated that the Age Friendly Communities Plan has been approved and part of the implementation of the plan is the formation of an Age Friendly Community Team.

It was moved and seconded that Council approve the formation of an Age Friendly Community Team. Motion carried.

Councillor Patterson indicated he would contact former Committee members to determine interest and report back at next Council.

EXECUTIVE SEARCH – CAO

Warden Morrison advised that he, Councillor MacNeil and Mark Peck, Department of Municipal Affairs, reviewed the Executive Search proposals for the recruitment and selection of a new CAO and advised that the successful firm is Gerald Walsh Associates Inc., Halifax.

Warden Morrison has been in contact with the successful firm and will inform the unsuccessful submissions of the decision.

NEW BUSINESS

SOLID WASTE

As of yesterday's date, black bags are no longer accepted or collected at curbside. The Communications Officer was at the Baddeck site yesterday and is in Dingwall today, educating those who come to the sites with black bags. Reject stickers will be placed on black bags at curbside. This will be an ongoing process.

Leanne MacEachen advised that a battery exploded in the Baddeck Transfer Station, The situation was handled extremely well by staff, however; due to the flammable material at the site, the storage/blue bags will be located in the old warehouse back of the building.

The Christmas schedule was discussed. Last year the sites and collection was shut down over the holidays, but this was too long a time without collection or access to the sites so it is not recommended for this year. Robert Dauphinee, Director of Public Works, has provided a proposed schedule that will be advertised. Council will be advised.

VILLAGE OF BADDECK GUARANTEE

Leanne MacEachen presented a Guarantee Resolution for the Village of Baddeck to purchase a John Deere Tractor in the amount of \$63,000.00. This resolution is subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

It was moved and seconded that the Municipality approve the Guarantee Resolution for the Village of Baddeck's borrowing of \$63,000.00 for the purchase of a new tractor. Motion carried.

EASTERN DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF APPOINTMENT

It was moved and seconded that Paul Dec, Eastern District Planning Commission, be appointed as an Alternate Development Officer for the Municipality of the County of Victoria. Motion carried.

BAY ST. LAWRENCE WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

Rene Gagne, Earth Water Concepts, has indicated that pump testing of the wells at Bay St. Lawrence will cost approximately \$45,000.00.

It was moved and seconded to accept the recommendation for pump testing the wells at Bay St. Lawrence at a cost of \$45,000.00. Motion carried.

KEITH BAIN, MLA

Keith Bain, MLA, Victoria-The Lakes, forwarded a copy of a petition with regard to cell service that he tabled in the legislature.

CANNIBIS CONSULTATIONS

Councillor Patterson updated on the cannabis consultation meeting held in Port Hawkesbury yesterday. The effect this will have on policing costs was discussed. It appears the province has made up its mind already and it will be interesting to see how this unfolds.

The Cape Breton Partnership will be hosting the Atlantic Cannabis Forum on November 1, 2017.

CBREN-LED BROADBAND STRATEGY INITIATIVE

Warden Morrison presented a municipal resolution/Band Council Memorandum of Understanding for the CBREN-led Broadband Initiative Strategy.

It was moved and seconded that the Municipality of the County of Victoria work with the CBREN-led Municipal/First Nation Broadband Strategy Initiative to complete the necessary research and public engagement; develop and identify key objectives and long term related to broadband communications infrastructure; as well as develop connectivity strategies. This initiative is carried out in recognition that high-speed, accessible and affordable broadband is mission-critical in advancing economic, social and cultural development; enhancing government service delivery including health care, education and municipal services, increasing citizen engagement, government transparency and responsiveness; enhancing business capacity and job creation; increasing sustainability and enhancing safe, connected communities and emergency preparedness. Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #2

An update was provided on the “Share the Road” signs for the Big Baddeck Loop. This matter was forwarded to Vince Forrestall. Support was received from Velo Cape Breton. This is in the process.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis requested that a Get Well wishes be sent to Keith Bain, MLA, Victoria-The Lakes.

It was moved and seconded that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to the Celtic Colours organizers on another successful festival. Motion carried.

Terry Murray, who was in the gallery, requested that Council consider recognizing Leon Dubinsky’s contribution to Cape Breton music. There was a tribute in his honour during Celtic Colours.

It was moved and seconded that a letter of recognition be forwarded to Leon Dubinsky for his contribution to the Cape Breton songbook. Motion carried.

Councillor MacInnis indicated that the Victoria County Community Health Board is looking for a meeting room and he questioned if the Court Room would be available.

This room can be booked at the Tax Office for daytime meetings, and if required for evenings, can be booked as long as Councillor MacInnis would be responsible for securing the building after the meeting.

District #6

It was moved and seconded that the Eastern District Planning Commission be directed to investigate zoning for the Ingonish area. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee requested that Vince Forrestall request the cycling groups, i. e. Velo Cape Breton, etc., to also share to road. A number of complaints have been received from motorists that the cyclists also do not share the road at times.

District #5

Councillor Patterson questioned when the SPCA coverage would take effect in his district.

Leanne MacEachen will check on the start date for the SPCA.

District #3

Warden Morrison indicated he had a request from the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association concerning placing generic signage through the designation area and questioning on whether the County is interested in supporting or contributing to same.

Council have already agreed to providing support but made no financial commitment. The Association representatives will be invited to Council in November/December on this matter.

District #7

It was moved and seconded that the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal be requested to repair the hole on the Jack MacLeod Road, New Haven, and the cost will be paid from the District #7 budget. Motion carried.

District #8

Councillor MacDonald indicated that Lyle Donovan, EMC, presented a draft Emergency Measures Plan that he wishes Council to review and respond to within the next week.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from Brad Johns, MLA, Sackville-Beaverbank, and the Conservative Critic for Municipal Affairs, requesting that any provincial concerns be forwarded to him.

If anyone has any concerns, they are to forward them to Leanne MacEachen who will provide them to Mr. Johns.

Warden Morrison indicated that he received a reply from Mary Lou O'Neill concerning a meeting regarding physician recruitment. Her reply was that representatives meet with a small group of Council at the Victoria County Memorial Hospital. He indicated he sent a reply that the representatives meet with all Council at a Council meeting as requested. A reply has not been received since that letter was forwarded.

Warden Morrison indicated that this concern was brought to Minister Lloyd Hines attention at the recent meeting with Council and he was requested to bring forward Council's concern to the Minister of Health, which he indicated he would do.

The attempts made to meet with the Physician Recruitment Consultant have been a source of frustration for Council as the lack of physicians is a serious situation in Victoria County.

IN CAMERA

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

Council returned to the regular session.

It was moved and seconded to accept the recommendations from the In Camera meeting. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, it was moved that the meeting adjourn.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Leanne MacEachen, Acting CAO

