

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
January 7, 2020

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Tuesday, January 7, 2020, 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:

Leanne MacEachen, CAO
Alix Redden, CFO
Jocelyn Bethune, Communications Officer
Heather MacLean, Recorder

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order and presented the agenda for approval. He indicated that a brief In Camera meeting would be held at the end of the agenda.

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

2019 EMPLOYEE SERVICE RECOGNITION PRESENTATIONS

Warden Morrison advised that a number of municipal staff have completed various levels of service in 2019. Service awards were presented to the following:

Five (5) years	Leanne MacEachen, CAO (Present)
	Jocelyn Bethune, Communications Officer (Present)

Ten (10) years	Wilma Best, Recycling Depot Attendant (Absent) Greg Daisley, Machine Operator (Absent) Tony MacLean, Recently retired (Absent) Billy Pierrard, Machine Operator (Absent) Kelly Brett, Public Works Supervisor (Absent)
Twenty (20) years	Zina MacNeil, Accounting Clerk/Payroll (Absent) Cathi MacKenzie, Assistant Tax Collector (Present)
Forty (40) years	Heather MacLean, Administrative Assistant (Present)

A photo was taken of the Council and the service award staff members in attendance.

Warden Morrison acknowledged the staff members and thanked them for their commitment to the Municipality.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 10, 2019

The minutes of the December 10, 2019, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of December 10, 2019, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

The CAO felt it would be beneficial for Council to meet with the doctor recruitment community committees to review what action is being undertaken by both in this regard.

There have been four (4) committees formed and the Chairman of each committee is to be requested to meet with Council to update on the progress.

CAO REPORT

Work has begun today on the public washroom at the Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre.

The RBC training for staff has been delayed for one week

Five applications have been received for membership on the Planning Advisory Committee.

This matter is to be referred to the Planning Advisory Committee and John Bain, EDPC, for selection.

The CAO updated on the Tourism, Recreation/Physically Active Living and Economic Development Departments. Our new website should be up and running by the end of March and a meeting on Airbnb and short term rentals will be held at the Court House, Baddeck, on January 14, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.

Applications for Healthy Eating Equipment Grants are online and will be accepted until February 28, 2020.

The Cape Breton Partnership housing draft strategy has been released and we will await the results of the strategy.

Earlier this month, the Nova Scotia Government announced that municipalities must form an accessibility advisory committee and have an accessibility plan in place by April 1st, 2021. Municipalities can form a joint accessibility advisory committee and develop a joint accessibility plan with other municipalities in the region.

Leanne MacEachen advised that the tender for the Wreck Cove washrooms has closed and has been awarded to Gear Construction. The slab is being installed and the building is prefabbed offsite. Consistent signage for the public washrooms will be developed.

A Water Treatment Plan RFP for engineering services for Neil's Harbour was sent out this week.

The CAO advised that policies are currently in the development stage for Standardized Travel Reporting Policy, Grant Policy and Confidentiality Policy.

TAXATION UPDATE

The CAO reported that as of today, we are at \$1,600,484, compared to \$1,763,783 at the same time last year which is a total difference of \$163,299 ahead.

Arrears as of now are \$580,321, compared to \$773,270 this time last year for a difference of \$192,949. Progress has also be made on current, bringing the difference lower than it has been in the last few updates at \$29,650 behind.

Since the last Council in December, \$198,732 has been collected. This is significant given that the office was closed through the holidays.

Work will continue on collections and Council indicated they were pleased with the report and efforts on collection.

PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT

Bill O'Brien, NSHA Recruitment Specialist, is in the process of planning a Rural Clinic Crawl for medical students. They will travel from Halifax and stop along the way in other municipalities, making their way of Baddeck and Neil's Harbour. Council felt this was a good initiative and indicated their willingness to support this event.

It was moved and seconded that the Municipality participate in this initiative with financial support to be determined at a later date. Motion carried.

RECESS

Warden Morrison advised the Council would recess for 10 minutes.

RECYCLABLES

Leanne MacEachen advised that there are 12 not-for-profit organizations that have participated in receiving donations of recyclables and it is felt that each organization should receive donated recyclables for one month of the year. The organizations were drawn by lot and were:

- February, 2020 – Alderwood
- March, 2020 – North River Playground
- April, 2020 – Mini Rugby
- May, 2020 – BOLD Camp
- June, 2020 – Soccer
- July, 2020 – Hospital Auxiliary

- August, 2020 – Bras d’Or Archers
- September, 2020 – Baddeck & Area Cat Rescue
- October, 2020 – Baddeck Minor Hockey
- November, 2020 – Rocking Horse Ranch
- December, 2020 – Baddeck Academy Class Trip
- January, 2021 – Jim Bradley

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL CONCERNS

District #2

Councillor MacLeod advised that there are a number of highway signs that are down on the property across from the Irving/Tim Hortons, Baddeck, that require removal.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis brought up a concern with regard to the Englishtown Ferry. The ferry was taken out of service on December 10, 2019, and still remains at the ferry dock in Englishtown. Originally it was to be back in service on January 14, 2020. A full staff complement is still on board and work has only begun today on removing the cable and getting it ready for transport to dry dock in North Sydney.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of TIR requesting an inquiry on the operations of the Englishtown Ferry. Motion carried.

District #1

It was moved and seconded that a meeting be requested with Honourable Lloyd Hines, Minister of TIR at the location of his choice as soon as available. Motion carried.

District #8

Councillor MacDonald indicated that there was an MVA at the garage in Cape North and a towing company was called and the Fire Department was requested for traffic control.

He requested clarification on where the invoice is to be sent.

District #6

The hole below the guardrail adjacent to Jim Gunn's in Ingonish Ferry was reported at the last meeting, but there is nothing identifying this hole at present. The TIR are to be requested to remediate this roadway immediately.

District #3

The request for the extension of the 80 km speed zone to the west of the Cabot Trail Motel has not been completed and the status of the request is to be investigated.

It was moved and seconded that the items of concern be forwarded to the Department of TIR for action. Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #6

It was moved and seconded that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to the Ingonish Snowmobile Society on their new groomer purchased through the Mary Barker fund. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that \$1,000.00 be approved from the District #6 budget for the Ingonish Snowmobile Society. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee will provide the contact information for the Society.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee questioned on inviting Home Care to Council. Gwen Jarabek is the Agency Director and will be contacted.

District #7

It was moved and seconded that \$250.00 be approved from the District #7 budget for Cape Smokey Elementary. Motion carried.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis brought forward a concern with regard to cell phone and internet coverage in District #4.

The second round of announcements for Rural Broadband should be made in the next week.

District #2

The status of the solar light at the eastern end of Beverly's Hill Road was questioned. The light was installed by the Municipality. There was no power available to this location at the time.

A follow up is to be done with NSPI to see if there is any change in the availability of power for this location.

District #1

Councillor MacNeil indicated that he reported four streetlights that required repair in his district. He noted the difference in time it took to repair two of the lights and two remain not working.

Contact will be made with NSPI providing the civic addresses.

It was noted that there is a caterpillar diesel engine (generator) that has been sitting at the Baddeck Solid Waste Facility for a number of years and it is being serviced annually, but never put to use. This will be investigated with the Director of Public Works.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councillor MacLeod provided information on the Cape Breton Local Immigration Partnership which she requested be placed on the Victoria County website.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that the Pitu'paq Committee has been revived and met recently. They are in the process of having their financial status straightened out and will be carrying out a project through CEPI. Council will be further advised at a later date.

The Victoria County Transit Board will meet prior to Council on January 20, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Baddeck Lions Club will be hosting their Kidston Island Beach Curling Classic Fundraiser and are seeking financial support.

Council agreed to provide \$100.00, and additional funding can be considered through district budget funding.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, January 20, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

A meeting on Airbnb and short term rentals will be held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Tuesday, January 14, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.

The rescheduled doctor recruitment meeting for the northern area of the County is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 16, 2020. More information will be provided when details on location are confirmed.

Budget meetings will commence in late February, 2020.

IN CAMERA

It was moved and seconded to move In Camera to discuss a personnel issue. Motion carried.

Council returned to the regular session.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, it was moved to adjourn at 6:45 p.m.

Leanne MacEachen, CAO

Bruce Morrison, Warden