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## Victoria County Municipal Council

### April 23, 2018

A meeting of the Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck on Monday, April 23, 2018 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 #6 – Larry Dauphinee, Deputy Warden  
District #7 – Wayne Budge

Also present were:

Leanne MacEachen, CAO  
Zina MacNeil, Recorder

Absent was:

District #5 Fraser Patterson  
District #8 Norman MacDonald

#### **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.**

#### **BADDECK NURSERY SCHOOL**

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of council to Holly MacInnis and Tammy MacSween, board members of the Baddeck Nursery School.

The Baddeck Nursery School is a pre-school option for 3-5-year olds based in Baddeck. It has been in operation for over 45 years; the last 13 years they have been based at Baddeck Academy.

In 2009, as Baddeck Academy was about undergoing renovations, the Nursery School learned they must renovate their space as well or leave the building. The Nursery School board at the time exhausted options to look for other locations and the decision was made to remain at the school. They applied for an expansion loan through the provincial government, which included a 75% forgivable loan payable over a 30-year period, while the nursery school would fundraise the remaining 25%. This portion was paid back early through fundraising by the Baddeck Nursery School.

In 2014, renovations were complete and the Nursery School board signed a lease with the Cape Breton Regional Schoolboard for a 10-year lease to coincide with the 10-year loan term, which began then. In 2018, the provincial government announced a pre-primary program for Baddeck. The Cape Breton Victoria District School Board (Now the CB Victoria Centre for Education), the provincial departments of Education and Early Childhood Development, met with the Nursery School board and decided the best option for the newly mandated provincial pre-primary program would be the space presently operated by the Baddeck Nursery School. The Nursery School had decided their current program would no longer be feasible as half of their students would now be enrolled in the free pre-primary program. The Nursery School was also informed that they would be responsible for repaying the remaining forgivable portion of the \$60,000 loan if they ceased to operate in that space.

Bottom line: nursery school loses program, renovated space, must pay back loan and will not be compensated for \$40,000 raised.

The School board suggested the Nursery School use the space for an After School program, but this means redefining the association as a whole – which was established to offer programming to 3-5-year olds. It also leaves the proposed new association in the same predicament should the After-School program fail.

The (former) School board informed the Nursery School they are unable to assume the loan and they have another space in the school for their pre-primary class, so it is up to the Nursery School how they proceed. The Nursery School has asked the Department of Community Services to pardon the loan but have yet to receive and answer. In the meantime, the Nursery School has paused all fundraising.

The Nursery School asked council to write a letter of support on their behalf to the Department of Community Services, asking that the \$60,000 loan be forgiven.

**It was moved and seconded that council write a letter of support. Motion carried.**

Discussion took place and a number of questions were asked by the council members. The Warden thanked the members of the Baddeck Nursery School for their presentation.

## **CAPE BRETON FOOD HUB PRESENTATION**

Courtesy of council was extended to Jim Mustard and Marilyn MacDonald of the Cape Breton Food Hub. Mr. Mustard showed a short a video describing the on-line grocery store, highlighted local producers and how the Hub is a linkage for consumers and producers. The hub has also increased local food purchased and raised awareness of what kinds of products are available locally (ie: sea salt in Bay St. Lawrence). The Food Hub allows producers to know amounts to harvest based on what has been ordered on-line.

There has been an overall sales increase since 2015 when sales were \$42,000; \$87,000 in 2016 and \$135,000 in 2017. Five new producers signed up from Richmond County, expanding the reach.

The Hub runs from June – December and has extended the season for a number of producers. In 2018-2019 they hope to do more advertising of their service and last year reached out to corporate sponsors. In 2017 – The Food Hub requested and received \$7500. This year, they are requesting \$12,500 for 2018-2019 from all its municipal partners.

The Warden thanked Mr. Mustard for the presentation and recommended that if Council were to invest again this year, they would like to see the Baddeck and Area Business & Tourism Association provided with a similar presentation to raise awareness with the local restaurant sector.

**It was moved and seconded that the Cape Breton Food Hub request for funding be deferred to Budget talks. Motion carried.**

**It was moved and seconded that council approve two recommendations from an earlier In Camera session. Motion carried.**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 9, 2018**

The minutes of the April 9, 2018 meeting of the Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

**It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the April 9, 2018 council session be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

The warden thanked Deputy Warden Dauphinee for chairing the April 9, 2018 meeting in his absence. He also noted Councillors MacDonald and Patterson were absent this evening with explanation.

- **Heavy Garbage Collection**

CAO Leanne MacEachen noted that Heavy Garbage Collection will proceed on April 30, 2018.

- **Senior Safety Program**

CAO MacEachen noted that an application had been submitted through the Senior Safety program and the municipality was awaiting word back.

- **TIR**

The Municipality received correspondence from the Transportation, Infrastructure & Renewal Department regarding road concerns in District 1, specifically, culverts on John Neil George Rd.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Port Hawkesbury Paper**

Port Hawkesbury Paper requests to meet with council to discuss wood utilization and forest management practises. Leanne MacEachen will make contact and arrange.

### **Baddeck Multi-Use Trail**

Organizers of the proposed multi-use trail have formed the Victoria County Trails Federation and are applying to the province for assistance. They request a resolution of support from council.

## **MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF VICTORIA RESOLUTION RE: BADDECK MULTI-USE TRAIL**

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Municipality of the County of Victoria seeks to promote and support the development of the Baddeck Multi-Use Trail;

**AND WHEREAS** the Victoria County Trails Federation, in association with the Provincial government and others, seeks to develop and expand the Baddeck Multi-Use Trail, which includes an overpass to be constructed by the relevant authorities over the Trans-Canada Highway in Baddeck;

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Municipality of the County of Victoria is prepared in principle to accept trail easements leading to the approaches to the bypass to be granted to the Municipality of the County of Victoria, conditional upon due diligence being conducted by the Municipality of the County of Victoria, and the results of that due diligence and the terms and conditions of the proposed easements being acceptable to the Municipality.

**It was moved and seconded to approve the resolution for the Baddeck Multi-Use Trail.  
Motion carried.**

### **PCAP Funding**

**It was moved, and seconded to approve an application for PCAP funding, municipal contribution will be \$70,000 in a \$234,180 project for the closure of Baddeck Landfill Cell#2, the former landfill. Motion carried.**

**It was moved and seconded to approve the application for PCAP funding for the Municipal Water System in Little Narrows for a new production well to service existing and potential new customers, municipal contribution will be \$40,000 in a \$130,000 project. Motion carried.**

### **Eastern District Planning Commission**

**It was moved and seconded that the Town of Antigonish join the Eastern District Planning Commission. Motion carried.**

### **Safe Grad/Baddeck Academy**

**It was moved and seconded that council provide \$1000 towards the Baddeck Academy Safe Grad program 2018. Council added that it would similarly support any other Victoria County school with such a request. Motion carried.**

### **RECESS**

Warden Morrison advised that council would recess for 10 minutes.

### **TAXATION UPDATE**

The CAO indicated that currently \$1.31 million in taxes is outstanding, compared with \$1.491 million this time last year. Overall, tax is down \$181,000 over last year; \$98,000 collected since last council session. The next tax sale is scheduled for September 11 with an anticipated 20 properties. There have been a few properties that have been on a number of previous tax sales and she requested details so the properties could be sold for less than the tax owing.

### **NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**District # 6 Councillor Dauphinee – no request**

**District #7 Councillor Budge**

- Highland Manor is looking to expand and would like to exchange a piece of land. CAO MacEachen to contact Highland Manor administrator Brian MacIsaac for more information.
- \$1000 from district budget for New Haven/Neil's Harbour Volunteer Fire Dept.

**District #4 Councillor MacInnis**

- Asked that the CAO and council attend the Victoria County Fire Chiefs Association on May 3.

- Health Board boxes for next council

### **District #2 Councillor MacLeod**

- Requested that a Climate Change coordinator be hired through the FCM program. To be discussed with the CAO and the Communications Officer Jocelyn Bethune. Applications due June 29.
- Requested that a letter be sent to the Premier regarding road changes at the Irving/Time Horton's on Highway 105 outside Baddeck. A citizen has launched a Facebook campaign to reduce speed limit near the facility.

CAO to ask Rose MacIsaac of the NS Health Authority to have a public meeting regarding changes and possible closures of the lab at Baddeck Hospital. It is requested that the public meeting be an evening without multiple speakers and an opportunity for the public to ask questions. Council will host a special meeting if required.

## **DISTRICT CONCERNS**

### **District #1**

Councillor MacNeil requested the Public Works department supply the community with clear bags and rubber gloves to conduct a community litter clean up.

### **District #6**

Councillor Dauphinee mentioned the up-coming Zoning Session in the Ingonish area.

### **District #2**

Councillor MacLeod asked that Raising the Villages be asked to present at a council session in the near future.

Councillor MacLeod discussed hosting the Vietnam rep coming to Cape Breton during the FCM conference in Halifax. As a gesture of goodwill, the Warden asked that council support hosting the group for some Victoria County activities – such as lobster fishing, golf, tours of the area.

**It was moved and seconded that council members host Vietnam delegates to show them Victoria County experiences. Motion carried.**

### **District #3**

Councillor Morrison requested a street light for 205 Shore Road. Moved and seconded. Motion carried.

Councillor Morrison requested that NSP address an abandoned street light processes when they speak to council in May.

The UNSM Spring Conference is May 10-12. Council is requested to email the CAO to confirm if attending and book rooms.

Councillor Morrison endorsed council's letter of support for the Baddeck Nursery School.

Council thanked the Public Works Department and Communications Officer Jocelyn Bethune for the great job on opening the Victoria County ReUse Building on April 21.

Council congratulated Payroll Clerk Zina MacNeil on her recent Payroll Certification.

### **Community Report – CEPI**

The municipal representative/co-chair requests permission to distribute minutes to council and other counties on the island. A \$5000 request was sent to budget talks.

**Bylaw Review** – none

**Correspondence** – done.

It was noted the Baddeck Sea Cadets will commemorate the Battle of the Atlantic on May 6. If any councillor would like to lay a wreath or attend may do so. The event takes place at Knox Church in Baddeck at 11 am.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Victoria County Municipal council will take place on Monday May 7, 2018 at 5 pm unless the District Health Board can appear before this date.

### **ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, it was moved to adjourn at 6:35 pm.**

Leanne MacEachen, CAO

Bruce Morrison, Warden