

***VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL***  
***July 24, 2018***

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Cape North Cultural Centre, Cape North, on Tuesday, July 24, 2018, beginning at 3:00 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  
Robert Dauphinee, Director of Public Works  
Heather MacLean, Recorder

**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.**

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Council and staff provided introductions to the public in attendance.

Warden Morrison also recognized Councillor Merrill MacInnis on his retirement from fishing last week. He worked in the fishing industry for 54 years.

**CAPE NORTH WATER EXTENSION**

Warden Morrison indicated that the Municipality have a number of requests for capital work and this development is always an issue and an expensive issue.

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Robert Dauphinee, Director of Public Works, indicated that there is the potential to extend the water system to Cape North. Preliminary investigation indicates that the current production wells can accommodate the projected water usage. Application would have to be made to the Department of Environment to modify the permit to withdraw water.

Mr. Dauphinee indicated that they are looking at an extension to the existing line up to the intersection – ½ a kilometre out in each direction. An investigation of whether there is large rock in this area that would need to be dealt with will be conducted. There is the potential for approximately 60 additional water services in this area.

The preliminary cost estimate for this project is \$1.1 million. A booster station would be necessary also and would likely be in the area across from the fire department. Numbers will be refined as/when the project progresses.

Leanne MacEachen advised that the Victoria County Water Utility is currently in a \$2 million dollar deficit position. A water rate increase was approved by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board last year to assist in decreasing the deficit.

Ms. MacEachen indicated that they would hope to access federal and provincial funding for this project. This funding would provide 2/3 of the cost, with the remaining 1/3 to be borne by the residents of the extension area or a combination of the residents and County. She provided cost figures for both scenarios.

The Municipality will do its best to secure federal/provincial funding for this project. The current costs for connection to the existing system and the estimated quarterly water bill were provided.

Robert Dauphinee advised that the water line is placed in the shoulder of the road and a service is located at every lot. It is up to the homeowner to connect to the service.

Water systems, regulations and fees are regulated by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.

The public in attendance asked various questions with regard to costs and responsibility.

There has to be a commitment from the residents to connect to the extension before consideration will be given to commencing the project.

Whether a plebiscite would be appropriate to determine connection numbers was discussed.

It was felt that it was important to gauge the interest before proceeding any further.

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Councillor MacLeod suggested that a Town Hall meeting be held that will give residents the opportunity to discuss this matter in more detail. The County will provide the necessary information and staff resources for this meeting.

Councillor MacDonald committed to getting a more accurate count of the number of residents willing to connect to the extension prior to the September meeting. This will provide a more accurate picture to assist in determining how to proceed.

Warden Morrison extended a thank you to the public in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 3, 2018**

The minutes of the July 3, 2018, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

Councillor MacLeod indicated that Robert Bernard was the organizer of the 2018 Kaqanata Multicultural & Diversity Summit in Wagmatcook on June 26, 2018.

The proclamations approved at the meeting are to be included.

**It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Victoria County Municipal Council session of July 3, 2018, be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

The meeting of the Cannabis Committee will be held on August 16, 2018, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Court House. Councillors MacLeod and Patterson are members of the Committee.

Councillor MacLeod requested an update and action on the “Share the Road Signs” for the Big Baddeck Loop.

It was indicated that a Flag Policy should be developed for Victoria County.

The portable washrooms have been located around the Municipality as requested.

The cheque has been forwarded to the Cape Breton Food Hub.

Warden Morrison indicated that the Bras d’Or Yacht Club has opened its washroom facilities to the public and the funding provided for the portable washroom for this area will be forwarded to the Yacht Club for purchase of supplies.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**VILLAGE OF BADDECK – TEMPORARY BORROWING**

The CAO presented a temporary borrowing resolution for the Village of Baddeck related to the sewage treatment plant in the amount of \$252,465.00. The Village is requesting the Municipality to guarantee the borrowing.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee felt that as a guarantor, the Municipality should request and receive a copy of the Village of Baddeck's financial statements.

**It was moved and seconded that a temporary borrowing resolution guaranteeing the Village of Baddeck's borrowing in the amount of \$252,465.00 be approved as recommended. Motion carried.**

**PROTECTED LAND**

The CAO advised that she contacted the Department of Natural Resources to request that Victoria County be taken off the list for further protected areas as there are enough protected lands in the Municipality.

The topic of coastal protected areas was brought up and discussed. There are no concrete definitions of coastal areas. There is a coastal protection document that should be reviewed and a recommendation provided to Council so that they can respond to the document by the August 17, 2018, deadline.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that he thinks this is more to do with a land use policy rather than protection and he suggested that CEPI be invited to Council in September to explain what they are doing in this regard.

**It was moved and seconded that Councillor McNeil, Patterson and MacDonald review the coastal protection document and provide a recommendation to Council. Motion carried.**

**PLEBISCITES**

Discussion took place on plebiscites begin held in Cape North and Bay St. Lawrence with regard to water.

**SENIORS SAFETY GRANT**

Council was advised that a Seniors Safety Grant was approved and more information will be provided in September.

**FIRE SERVICES COORDINATOR**

Lyle Donovan has been hired as the Fire Services Coordinator for Victoria County. He commenced his duties on July 16, 2018.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – PUBLIC WORKS AND VILLAGE OF BADDECK**

Megan Cooper has been hired as the Administrative Assistant to be shared between the Department of Public Works and the Village of Baddeck.

**RURAL BROADBAND**

An important meeting on Rural Broadband will be held in Whycocomagh on August 9, 2018, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Leanne MacEachen indicated that the Group of Cape Breton CAO's is requesting that the new Nova Scotia government department be housed outside the Halifax area.

**EFFICIENCY NOVA SCOTIA ENERGY MANAGER**

The CAO advised that there will be a competition for Efficiency Nova Scotia Manager Positions throughout the province. A co-funded, on-site energy manager will work to help save energy and money. The municipalities of Inverness, Richmond and Victoria and the Towns of Mulgrave and Port Hawkesbury, along with the Village of Baddeck wish to join together to obtain an Energy Manager.

**It was moved and seconded that the Municipality of the County of Victoria, partner with the Municipality of the County of Inverness, Municipality of the County of Richmond, Town of Port Hawkesbury, Town of Mulgrave and Village of Baddeck, to move forward with arrangements to have a dedicated Efficiency Nova Scotia Energy Manager to access municipal infrastructure for the purpose of determining opportunities for reduction of energy consumption. The Municipalities' costs for this position will be shared through a formula recommended by Efficiency Nova Scotia and approved by the CAO's and Clerk. Motion carried.**

**RE-USE CENTRE**

The Baddeck Re-use Centre has provided \$3,002.42 to non-profit organizations in its 16 weeks of operation.

**TAXATION UPDATE**

Tax bills have been sent out recently. \$9 million has been billed..

The arrears balance is \$1,064 million, down from \$1,267 million from the same time last year.

\$72,583.00 has been collected since the last Council meeting on July 3, 2018.

The interest rate of 10% per annum was discussed. Whether this rate should be increased was discussed. An investigation into the interest rate charged by other municipalities in a similar situation is to be conducted and the findings brought back to Council.

### **DISTRICT CONCERNS**

#### **District #1**

Councillor MacNeil brought up the lack of brush cutting in the County. Councillor MacDonald has the same issue in his district. The Minister had indicated when he met with Councillor MacNeil that there was extra money for mowing and brush cutting this year, but to date nothing has been done. It has been indicated that nothing will be done in District #1 before the Washabuck Festival beginning on August 3, 2018.

Councillor MacNeil also brought up the issue of the Ferry Tolls. A letter is to be written to the Minister to remind him that the rates are a penalty to local residents.

#### **District #2**

Councillor MacLeod requested that a school bus stop sign ahead be located at 1229 Cabot Trail, Middle River. This is to be included in the letter to the TIR.

Councillor MacLeod indicated that there are FCM grants available which could possibly assist with the cost of washroom facilities in the County.

**It was moved and seconded that this project be assigned to Patrick Austin, EDO, for investigation and update to Council in the fall. Motion carried.**

Councillor MacLeod requested permission to attend the AMANS training – Leadership in the Municipal Sector, to be held on September 5-6, 2018.

Councillor MacLeod was authorized to attend this training.

#### **District #4**

Councillor MacInnis brought up the issue of the increased use of pylons by the Department of TIR in areas of the County. He feels another meeting should be held with TIR Managers to sit down and get Council's concerns out there again.

**It was moved and seconded that the local Department of TIR officials be contacted to meet with Council at a date and location convenient with them. Motion carried.**

**It was moved and seconded that two relocation and installation orders for street lights in District #4 be approved with the locations to be provided by Councillor MacInnis. Motion carried.**

**District #8**

Councillor MacDonald introduced Gerard MacDonald who is working on a project to implement Gaelic signage in District #8.

Mr. MacDonald updated on his attempts to date and the lack of replies received.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter of support for Gaelic signage throughout District #8 be forwarded to the Department of TIR. Motion carried.**

A street light recently relocated to Capstick Road was located on the wrong pole. The correct pole is marked with tape.

**It was moved and seconded that a request be forwarded to NSPI to relocate this light to the correct location. Motion carried.**

Councillor MacDonald reiterated the concerns of the lack of brush cutting in his district.

The Bay St. Lawrence Volunteer Fire Department hosted another successful crab festival on Sunday past. It was a great day and well attended.

**District #6**

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to GolfNorth expressing concern on the condition of the Highland Links/Keltic Resort and requesting that staff from head office come to the area to meet with the local business committee to work together on the concerns. Motion carried.**

**Distict #5**

Councillor Patterson indicated that the day after the meeting with TIR Managers, the brush cutter came to the Kempt Head Road, worked for one day and then the machine sat for three days until it was removed. The importance of brush cutting is to be stressed to TIR.

**District #7**

No concerns to address.

**District #3**

Deputy Warden Dauphinee assumed the Chair.

**It was moved and seconded that \$2,000.00 be approved from the District #3 budget for beautification of the streetscape in the Village of Baddeck. Motion carried.**

Warden Morrison advised that there is matched funding available for such projects and approval has been received for a matched 50/50 funding for a total of \$20,000.00. Discussion will be held regarding the districts at a later date for potential projects.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Peter Hackett, Senior Engineer, Department of TIR, requesting a reply to Council's letter with his recommendations on the reduction of the speed limit at the Irving/Tim Hortons, west of Baddeck. Motion carried.**

**District #2**

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Brooke and Kate Oland with regard to their livestock and dogs roaming on adjacent properties. Motion carried.**

**District #7**

Deputy Warden Dauphinee brought up the matter of a sign for the Murphy Road. This road is a courtesy road.

A request for a road sign for the Murphy Road is to be forwarded to the Department of TIR.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter outlining all Department of TIR requests be forwarded. Motion carried.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No Committee reports for this meeting.



**BY-LAW POLICY REVIEW**

There are no by-law/policy review matters for this session.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was provided to Council prior to the meeting.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held at the Indian Brook Fire Hall, on Tuesday, August 7, 2018, at 12:00 noon. Councillor MacInnis has invited Council on a boat tour following the meeting.

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, it was moved to adjourn at 4:40 p.m.**

**Bruce Morrison, Warden**

**Leanne MacEachen, CAO**