

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

January 20, 2020

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, January 20, 2019, 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 #5 – Fraser Patterson
District #6 – Larry Dauphinee, Deputy Warden
District #8 – Norman MacDonald

Also present were:

Alix Redden, CFO
Leanne MacEachen, CAO

Absent were:

District #4 – Merrill MacInnis (Out of Country)
District #7 – Wayne Budge (Family Funeral)

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Warden Morrison advised that a meeting was held with MLA Keith Bain at 4:00 p.m. this afternoon and the Victoria County Transit Committee meeting scheduled for today was cancelled.

The agenda was presented for approval.

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

CORPORAL SEAN COADY, RCMP

Courtesy of Council was extended to Corporal Sean Coady, RCMP. Corporal Coady indicated he is the Acting District Commander at present, as Staff Sgt. Waidson has been off on

medical leave since November, 2019, and will remain in this position until at least the end of March, 2020.

Corporal Coady began by updating on the Road Safety initiatives. He indicated that Victoria County is number one in terms of road safety statistics in the province, with the exception of designated highway units.

He presented a comparative analysis to previous years. The prevalence of fake road safety inspection stickers has been an issue and the number of defect notices issued increased to 115 for 2019. This is a significant safety concern.

The number of check stops conducted in 2019 was 235 and from that over 6300 vehicles were checked.

Property related crimes showed a reduction in 2019, as well as break and enters, theft and arsons. Discussion took place on to what this could be attributed to.

A property crime reduction strategy is something that has been identified. In terms of crimes against persons, reporting has changed somewhat. Total reported in 2019 were 112, down from the previous year.

Mental Health Act numbers reported has increased and is a significant concern taking up a great deal of the RCMP members' time. Police certificates amounted to 424. This includes criminal record checks, code of conduct, etc.

Cannabis legislation and charges as a result of cannabis use were provided. He was questioned on whether there was downturn in illegal cannabis. Until it is more readily accessible, the black market will continue to exist.

Wintertime fines, such as not removing snow from vehicles, passing school bus, etc. was questioned. Fines remain same throughout the year. Fine information can be obtained through the Department of Justice website.

Collisions causing death was discussed. Cpl Coady indicated he could not discuss specific cases, but they would like to see the number down.

Senior Safety Victimization was discussed. If there are events Council would like to see members attend, just let them know.

A question was raised on increasing patrols for ATV's and snowmobiles. The members have tried to get out more and have gone out with members of Lands & Forestry Department. This takes a great deal of time and resources and is challenging.

Whether this is a confidential report was questioned and whether it could be shared on the website was discussed. Cpl. Coady indicated that there is nothing in the report that cannot be shared.

Councillor MacDonald requested to pass on best wishes to Staff Sgt. Waidson. He questioned on the staff complement and whether they are operating at even strength. Currently there is a couple of staff on sick leave. Other than that everything is operating as it should. Cpl. Jeff Shannon has retired and Cst. Darren Sylvester will be retiring in mid-March. Three new members have come to Ingonish in 2019 – Constables Miranda Kerr, Greg Parsons and Matthew Treyer. Constable Brittany Johnston has come to the Baddeck Detachment. A couple of members have been exchanged from Baddeck to Wagmatcook – Cpl Gavin Naime has transferred to Wagmatcook and Curtis Kuchta to Baddeck.

After further discussion, Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Corporal Coady for his report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 7, 2020

The minutes of the January 7, 2020, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of January 7, 2020, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Councillor MacNeil indicated that the street lights that weren't working in his district were repaired two days after the last Council meeting.

Councillor MacLeod asked NSPI if there was any change in the power supply to the eastern entrance of Beverly's Hill Road or whether there was a new technology for solar power for this location.

Councillor MacNeil questioned if there was a reply from Minister Hines concerning a meeting. There is nothing to date.

The Housing Survey is still open and residents are urged to fill out the survey.

Bill O'Brien, Recruitment Specialist with NSHA, will advise when the Clinic Crawl is set.

RBC Training has taken place and the Municipal accounts will be transferred to the Royal Bank within the next few weeks.

The Re-Use Centre is closed for the winter. A change to the organizations being included on a monthly list for proceeds of recyclables was discussed. The soccer club removed their name from the list and a replacement will be made.

Councillor MacDonald was questioned by a resident why the same didn't apply in the northern area. This can be investigated for the northern area also.

NEW BUSINESS

CAO REPORT

A website upgrade is being investigated. We are looking at having it up and running by March 31, 2020. Dan Coffin and Jocelyn Bethune are working on the website issue.

Discussion took place on the washrooms and Deputy Warden Dauphinee indicated that he was questioned by a few residents as to whether the washrooms at Wreck Cove were going to be winterized and open in the winter. If we are pushing winter tourism, they should be available.

Councillor MacNeil questioned on the Broadband Meeting scheduled for January 30, 2020. Council will be further updated on the time and location.

The CAO indicated she would like to set up a Committee of the Whole meeting to deal with grants. She is looking at revamping the grant program and would like to come up with policy in this regard. She would also like to go over the JMAT format for reporting with Council. It is an electronic template for reporting Council and CAO expenses.

The FCM is in Toronto this year and four Councillors are eligible to attend – Councillors MacNeil, MacDonald, Budge and Warden Morrison. They are to advise as soon as possible if they wish to attend. If not, it can be open to other Council members who attended last year.

RECESS

The Warden announced that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

TAXATION UPDATE

The CAO advised that as of today, we are \$1,548,459 compared to \$1,741,039, this time last year. This is a total difference of \$192,581 ahead.

Arrears are \$567,228 compared to \$768,811, for a difference of \$201,583. Good movement has also continued on current bringing the difference to \$9,002 behind, \$981,230 now vs. \$972,228 last year.

Since the January 7, 2020, Council meeting, \$52,000 has been collected.

The CAO indicated that collections are going very well and headed in the right direction.

The affect this has on provincial indicators was questioned and discussed.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL CONCERNS

District #1

Councillor MacNeil indicated he received a phone call from a contractor concerning Murphy Road in Washabuck. The maintained status was removed from this road.

It was moved and seconded that TIR be contacted with regard to the status of Murphy Road, Washabuck. Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #2

Councillor MacLeod felt a meeting should be requested with Brendan Carr, President & CEO, NSHA. Council can meet in Halifax with him if required.

It was moved and seconded that Brendan Carr, President and CEO of NSHA be requested to meet with Council at the location of his choice. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Another date is to be set for the Victoria County Transit meeting.

The CEPI Senior Council meeting is January 20, 2020, the same day as the Broadband meeting.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #8

It was moved and seconded that \$500.00 be approved from the District #8 budget for the North Highlands Elementary School “Ski-in-School” program. Motion carried.

District #2

It was moved and seconded that \$1,000.00 be approved from the District #2 budget for the Middle River Community Hall towards the cost of a generator. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Request from the Public Works Supervisor for Council’s support to make application for the FCM Sustainable Communities Award for the Re-Use Centre.

It was moved and seconded that the Municipality provide a letter of support for the application under the FCM Sustainable Communities Award. Motion carried.

2. Request from the Epilepsy Association of the Maritimes requesting the Municipality participate in Epilepsy Month on March 26, 2020, by wearing purple ribbons.

It was moved and seconded that March 26, 2020, be Epilepsy Awareness Day in Victoria County. Motion carried.

3. A letter was received from the Leonard Matheson Memorial Hockey Tournament requesting funding.

This will be looked after through District Budget funding.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next meetings of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held on Wednesday, February 5, 2020, and Monday, February 24, 2020, at the Court House, Baddeck, at 5:00 p.m.

A Committee of the Whole meeting to deal with grants and JMAT reporting will be held on January 29, 2020, at 2:30 p.m.

A Victoria County Transit Meeting will be scheduled and Council will be advised.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, it was moved to adjourn.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Leanne MacEachen, CAO

