

**VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
**March 5, 2018**

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, March 5, 2018, 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 #6 – Larry Dauphinee, Deputy Warden  
District #7 – Wayne Budge  
District #8 – Norman MacDonald

Also present were:

Leanne MacEachen, CAO  
Heather MacLean, Recorder

Absent was:

District #5 – Fraser Patterson (Out of Town)

**CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order and the agenda was presented for approval. The Warden advised that one addition to the agenda was an update on the CAO position.

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

**UPDATE – CAO POSITION**

Warden Morrison indicated that Council met earlier In Camera where they reviewed the selection process with Gerald Walsh Associates. Fifty-nine applications were received and they were shortlisted to three. One candidate opted out of the interview and the Committee interviewed two candidates.

Warden Morrison advised that the new CAO for the Municipality of the County of Victoria is Leanne MacEachen.

**It was moved and seconded that Council approve the appointment of Leanne MacEachen as CAO for the Municipality of the County of Victoria. Motion carried.**

**It was moved and seconded that the Warden be authorized to sign the Agreement of Employment with Leanne MacEachen, CAO. Motion carried.**

Council extended congratulations to Leanne MacEachen and indicated they looked forward to working with her and she reciprocated by indicating the same.

**VICTORIA COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH BOARD**

Courtesy of Council was extended to Nancy Smith and Jim Morrow, representing the Victoria County Community Health Board.

Nancy Smith thanked Council for the opportunity to appear and introduced other members of the Victoria County Community Health Board (VCCHB) who were in attendance.

Jim Morrow advised on how Community Health Boards (CHBs) came to exist. In total, there are 37 CHBs located across the Province of Nova Scotia. CHBs serve a vital role in the well-being of their communities, helping to support many community-based projects and partnerships. This includes providing grants to community-based groups to support projects focused on health promotion.

The VCCHB is a committed group of volunteers who are working together to improve the health of their communities. They recently approved \$10,300.00 in Wellness Grant funding to seven different organizations and will be gathering with the successful applicants in April to get an update on their projects and how the money is spent.

CHBs strive to advocate, engage communities, educate and be a leader for collaborative actions to accomplish needed change. A key CHB activity is health planning. This planning enables participation by community members and provides the public with a voice. The community must be a key player in the health planning process. The CHBs engage with the public and listen to what they feel is important for their health. This results in the creation of a three year community health plan. The next health plan must be ready by 2019.

The VCCHB plans to mail out a survey to all Victoria County residents and are requesting the Council's assistance by placing boxes in prominent areas in their districts where the surveys can be dropped off. A draft copy of the survey was presented. The surveys will be due by May 15, 2018.

The health plan will be done in collaboration with the Inverness County CHB's, and a consultant has been hired to do information gathering to assist with the Health Plan.

Once the health plan has been completed, it will be combined with the other areas in the Eastern Zone for submission to government.

Council was advised that at present there are no representatives on the VCCHB from the North of Smokey area and the Washabuck Peninsula. They would like to have representatives from all areas of the County. Recruitment is a big issue and anything Council can do to assist, would be greatly appreciated. The Board complement can be between 9 and 15, and at present they have 7 members. Meetings are held once per month and there is the capability for teleconferencing.

Council agreed to take the full survey boxes back to the Court House after the May 15, 2018, survey deadline, where they can be collected by the VCCHB.

Discussion took place and Warden Morrison extended a thank you for the presentation.

### **BADDECK & AREA CAT RESCUE**

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Donna Johnson and members of the Baddeck & Area Cat Rescue who were in attendance to update on their organization (copy attached).

The Baddeck & Area Cat Rescue are a group of volunteers who are committed to reducing the population of feral and stray cats in Baddeck and surrounding area. The coverage area is Baddeck and west to the Yankee Line, Middle River, Westside Middle River and east to South Haven. They have done work outside this area in the past. They have also helped in the Wagmatcook area and are in ongoing negotiations with the Band Council for funding assistance.

Mrs. Johnson provided an update and outlined the benefits of the organization to the Municipality. The list of accomplishments in 2017 was also outlined. They have a low income assistance plan in which they ask owners for a \$50.00 donation and pay the remainder of the neutering fees. The importance of the volunteer contributions was outlined.

An inventory of the equipment and supplies on hand was provided and Council was advised that \$1,302.46 was spent on equipment in 2017. Expenditures for veterinary services in 2017 were \$10,510.40 after a discount of \$5,204.64.

Donations and fundraising activities were outlined. Mrs. Johnson thanked Council for the funding received last year from the Municipality.

Mrs. Johnson was advised of the Community Grant Funding Program through the Municipality. The deadline for application is March 31, 2018.

Whether the organization has received any complaints with regard to coyotes was questioned and Mrs. Johnson advised that they have heard nothing lately in this regard. There has been an increase in coyote sightings in the District #4 and North of Smokey areas.

After further discussion, Councillors from District #1, 2, 3, and 4 agreed to provide \$500.00 each from their district budgets to the Baddeck and Area Cat Rescue.

Mrs. Johnson extended a thank you to Council and Warden Morrison thanked the organization for the good work they have done and continue to do.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 5, 2018**

The minutes of the February 5, 2018, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

**It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of February 5, 2018, be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Physician Recruitment Forum**

Councillor MacLeod questioned on where and when the physician recruitment fair would be held. This will be further investigated.

**Epilepsy Month**

The CAO indicated that in proclaiming March as Epilepsy Month in Victoria County, it is requested that the Councillors wear and be photographed as a group wearing a purple ribbon in recognition of Epilepsy Month.

**Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association**

The status of the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Association signage program was questioned. The status is unknown at present.

**Blue Dot Campaign**

The declaration for the Blue Dot Campaign has not as yet been approved. Copies of approved declarations from other municipal units are to be obtained for review in developing the County's declaration.

**BUDGET**

At a Budget Meeting held earlier today, various budget scenarios were presented and it was felt that a 2 cent increase in the tax rates would be appropriate. Leanne MacEachen indicated that she was confident that this budget, with tweaking, could be a break even budget.

**It was moved and seconded that the tax rates increase by 2 cents and the rates for 2018/19 be \$1.22 residential and \$2.12 commercial. Motion carried.**

The budget itself has not been finalized as yet.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Cape Breton Innovation Hubs**

Leanne MacEachen advised that the Cape Breton Partnership have been contracted to promote innovation hubs within various areas and Ingonish, Baddeck and possibly Bay St. Lawrence could be possible sites. There are different types of innovation possibilities.

Representatives from the Cape Breton Partnership will be presenting at the next Council meeting on innovation hubs.

**Traffic Counts**

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal will do one week traffic volume counts and classification (vehicle type) counts for municipalities if their schedule allows. The cost for volume counts is \$400 and for classification counts is \$450.

Whether there would be interest for such information in the area of the Irving/Tim Hortons was discussed.

**Public Works Updates**

The re-use building at the Baddeck Solid Waste Management Facility will be opening on April 3, 2018.

The new water tower at Neil's Harbour is being cured at present and will be filled the third week of March, 2018.

Whether the Council wished to have a heavy garbage collection this year was questioned and it was indicated that a collection should take place in early May prior to the Cabot Trail Relay.

Whether there would be cost for items from the re-use building has yet to be determined. Once this building is operating, consideration will be given to doing the same at Dingwall.

**TAXATION UPDATE**

Leanne MacEachen updated on taxation collected since the last meeting. \$120,000.00 has been collected in the past month - \$61,000.00 on current and \$58,000.00 in arrears. Reminder notices were sent out last week and a taxation campaign is being explored at present.

A Tax Sale will be conducted on March 20, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. It is also hoped that the province will pay the \$27,000.00 owing for the hospital fire protection costs. Bi-weekly meetings are being held with Tax Department staff to monitor collections.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM IN CAMERA**

**It was moved and seconded that the recommendations from the In Camera meeting be accepted. Motion carried.**

**RECESS**

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

**DISTRICT CONCERNS**

**District #2**

**It was moved and seconded that a street light order be placed to be relocate and existing street light from 8451 TCH 105 to 8485 TCH 105, Baddeck Inlet. Motion carried.**

Councillor MacLeod attended the seniors luncheon in St. Ann's and collected transit surveys there as well as other locations in Baddeck. 185 surveys were completed and sent to Strait Area Transit.

Warden Morrison commended Councillor MacLeod for the work she did on the transit survey.

**District #4**

Councillor MacInnis recently attended the Minister's Conference on Fisheries and there was a presentation on the waste product from fish and potential avenues to turn the waste into a product.

Councillor MacInnis will contact Osborne Burke, Victoria Co-op Fisheries, on this matter.

There is a coyote problem in the District #4 area and Councillor MacInnis felt a bounty program should be reinstated.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Natural Resources requesting that a bounty be placed on coyotes in Victoria County. Motion carried.**

Councillor MacInnis advised that Patrick Austin and Jeremy Martell, Cape Breton REN, came to a meeting in St. Ann's where there were 27 participants in attendance. The lack of recognition given to the fisheries in Victoria County is a concern which needs to be addressed.

Councillor MacInnis indicated that he can have Veronika Brzeski come to Council to provide figures on the fisheries. She will be included on an April Council agenda.

**District #6**

An information session on land use planning will be held in Ingonish on April 12, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. More information on location, etc. will be provided at a later date. Council members available are encouraged to attend.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to Jerry Barron in recognition of his 8 year old granddaughter who escorted the Canadian Team and sang in the opening ceremonies of the 2018 Winter Olympics. Motion carried.**

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs asking him to meet on the seasonal tax issue. Motion carried.**

**District #8**

Councillor MacDonald brought up concern with regard to the lack of lighting at the intersection at South Harbour and the Effie's Brook Bridge. The bridge is a Parks Canada bridge that is to be upgrading this year.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be written to Eric LeBel, Superintendent, CBHNP, requesting that consideration be given to including lighting when upgrading the Effie's Brook Bridge at South Harbour. Motion carried.**

Councillor MacDonald indicated that the roadway that leads up to Bay Road Valley has areas along the road shoulders that are 6 to 10 inches and guardrail in the area is almost obsolete.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Steve MacDonald, Department of TIR, questioning on their future plans for repair work in the Bay Road Valley area this construction season. Motion carried.**

Councillor MacDonald presented concerns with regard to the Money Point Quarry.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Environment, as the regulatory department, requesting they host a public meeting in Bay St. Lawrence or a central location, to discuss the proposed expansion of the Money Point Quarry and request that representatives from Dexter Construction also attend to present their expansion plans, along with MLA Keith Bain. Motion carried.**

**It was moved and seconded that a request be submitted to the Department of Environment that the deadline be extended beyond March 17, 2018, to allow the residents the opportunity to respond to the quarry expansion plans. Motion carried.**

This matter is a provincial responsibility and concerns should be addressed to the province.

**District #5**

**It was moved and seconded that a street light order be placed for installation on pole 2.8 km. up the Kempt Head Road, opposite Old Centre Post Road, on pole just past Eagle Pass and before 11710 Kempt Head Road. Motion carried.**

**It was moved and seconded that \$2,500.00 be approved from the District #5 budget for the Ross Ferry Volunteer Fire Department's seniors project. Motion carried.**

The status of the SPCA contract in District #5 was discussed. The contract expired at the end of February, 2018. In the few months of the contact, 7 complaints were received and 3 dogs picked up at a cost of \$10,000.00. Residents feel there are still concerns to be addressed.

Leanne MacEachen indicated that the Dog By-Law was never registered with the Department of Justice. Contact will be made with the Department of Justice to see what is required.

Whether the SPCA would extend the contract at a reduced price was discussed and will be requested. The Summary Offence Ticket training for Victoria County Dog Control Officers was questioned. It was felt that a meeting should be held with the Dog Control Officers to determine their future intentions.

**It was moved and seconded that the SPCA be requested to extend the contract until the end of March, 2018, to allow for time to complete the legislative piece, determine the status of the Dog Control Officers and the Summary Offence Ticket training, and if necessary the CAO use her discretion to extend the contract to April. Motion carried.**

Councillor Patterson is interested in possibly making application for the NSGovLab, an organization that uses social innovation theory and methods to test and learn from new ideas that



support the aging population. The deadline for application is March 8, 2018, and a letter of endorsement is required.

**It was moved and seconded to provide the letter of support for Councillor Patterson's application to NSGovLab. Motion carried.**

**District #3**

Warden Morrison advised that a new family physician will be coming to Baddeck this spring and the Municipality will continue to assist in the efforts to recruit three additional doctors for Victoria County.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the NSHA acknowledging the recruitment of one physician to the Baddeck area and reiterating the request for three additional doctors for Victoria County. Motion carried.**

Council was advised that the Washabuck Tartan has been officially registered.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to Marie MacDonald, creator of the Washabuck Tartan. Motion carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Correspondence advising that a meeting will be held in Halifax on March 7, 2018, for anyone interested in an application for offshore drilling.

Further information on location is to be obtained and if available, Councillor MacInnis will attend.

2. Councillor MacLeod indicated that the Mayor of Port Hawkesbury is requesting support to add the traditional Mi'kmaq name to the sign welcoming visitors to Cape Breton. The sign would read "Welcome to Cape Breton/Unama'ki".

**It was moved and seconded to provide a letter of support for renaming the sign on the causeway bridge to "Welcome to Cape Breton/Unama'ki". Motion carried.**

3. Letter from Alexander Graham Bell Foundation re 2019 Hydrofoil Centennial Planning, requesting funding and the opportunity to meet with Council to discuss planning.
4. Letter from Stephen MacDonald, Area Manager, Department of TIR, advising that funding has been allotted to Hillcrest Drive for drainage improvements this construction season and the road will be added to their assessment process for paving. He also

advised that he is unable to install a street light at the intersection of the Big Baddeck/Old Margaree Roads.

5. Letter from Stephen MacDonald, Area Manager, Department of TIR, in response to sanding in District #8, including a copy of their sanding standards and advising that staffing and equipment levels North of Smokey are meeting and exceeding provincial standards.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held on Tuesday, March 27, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. in the Court House, Baddeck.

**ADJOURN**

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

**Bruce Morrison, Warden**

**Leanne MacEachen, CAO**