

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

November 15, 2018

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Thursday, November 15, 2018, beginning at 4:30 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

Also present were:

Leanne MacEachen, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recorder

Absent, due to weather, were:

District #6 – Larry Dauphinee, Deputy Warden
District #7 – Wayne Budge
District #8 – Norman MacDonald

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order and presented the revised agenda for approval. He indicated that Janet Knox, President and CEO, Nova Scotia Health Authority, is unavailable today due to illness and the three Councillors from the northern area of the Municipality are absent due to weather conditions.

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

THEATRE BADDECK PRESENTATION

Courtesy of Council was extended to Hannah Ziss, Theatre Baddeck, who was in attendance to present on their 2018 season and plans for the 2019 season.

Ms. Ziss outlined the 2018 season highlights. Theatre Baddeck is a 100% Nova Scotian acting company and production team. In 2018 they were able to hire three students and recent graduates. They did their first matinee for 90 students of Baddeck Academy. Honourable Leo Glavine, Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage, visited Theatre Baddeck in July and was excited by the work they are doing in Victoria County. Theatre Baddeck had two sold out performances and were close to capacity in others. This would not have been possible without Victoria County's \$10,000.00 contribution.

Theatre Baddeck produced three new performances which doubled their budget. Attendance increased by over 70% and they maintained the 40% coverage of expenses from ticket revenue. Theatre Baddeck is now #1 on "Things to Do on Baddeck, NS" on TripAdvisor.

Ms. Ziss provided a number of testimonials on Theatre Baddeck's 2018 performances and outlined statistics on audience breakdown. Dinner Theatre in conjunction with the Telegraph House was undertaken with 65 dinners purchased over 10 performances.

Ms. Ziss outlined how the funding provided by the Municipality was used in 2018-19 and indicated that their request for 2019-20 is \$10,000.00 in financial sponsorship to be used for digital marketing and operational support. She outlined their plans for 2019 and indicated they are requesting funding now to assist with early season expenses and to help set their 2019 budget.

The budget category the 2018-19 funding was provided from was questioned. Councillors who attended the performances indicated they were very enjoyable and are hitting a niche market in the area.

Whether there were plans for more school performances was questioned and Ms. Ziss said they are currently formulating ways to be involved in the winter season.

The brand exposure of Victoria County in their advertising, program and brochures was discussed. Council questioned why other organizations who donated received a full-page ad and the Municipality not. Ms. Ziss assured that if sponsorship is approved, the Municipality will be given a full page ad. There are a number of sponsorship options and Ms. Ziss indicated she would forward the document that outlines sponsorship to the Municipality.

Ms. Ziss was advised that Council would not be making a decision on this request until a later time.

Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Ms. Ziss for her presentation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 29, 2018

The minutes of the October 29, 2018, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved and seconded that the October 29, 2018, minutes of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

It was moved and seconded that Councillor Perla MacLeod be added as a member of the Age-Friendly Communities Committee and the Housing Committee. Motion carried.

SCOTIA WINDFIELDS COMMUNITY FUND

The status of the community funding from Scotia Windfields was again questioned. It is the Community Liaison Group that decides on the community funding.

STREET LIGHT RELOCATION

Councillor Patterson questioned on the status of his street light relocation order at the Victoria County/CBRM boundary at Fife's Brook. This will be investigated.

CAO REPORT

The CAO presented her report outlining actions and activities since the last meeting (copy attached).

One item that will need to be addressed by Council is a decision on their stipend with the removal of the 1/3 non-taxable portion in January, 2019. The CAO and CFO are recommending an increase of 15%.

The Chief Financial Officer is to provide each individual Councillor with the affect the 15% would have on their stipend.

The CAO also advised that the Municipality's Christmas Party will take place on December 15, 2018, at the Baddeck Curling Club. Additional details will be provided when final arrangements have been made.

The CAO is also recommending that the Administration building be shut down over the holidays, with the staff taking vacation to account for the days absent. Public Works operations will continue throughout the holiday season.

EMO training will be held on December 1-2, 2018. A number of Councillors and Staff are attending.

TAXATION UPDATE

Arrears owing at present are \$822,000.00, down from \$1.018 million at the same time date last year. This is a decrease of \$196,000.00.

Current taxation is \$1.278 million and at the same date last year was \$1.206 million – being \$72,000.00 more over last year.

Total outstanding at present is \$2.1 million, down from \$2.22 million this date last year.

The CAO advised that collections are on a good track, but still not where we want them to be.

NEW BUSINESS

FCM CONFERENCE

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference will be held in Quebec City in 2019 and Toronto in 2020. Councillors interested in attending are to advise and four will be sent one year and four the next.

It was moved and seconded to approve four Councillors attend the Annual FCM Conferences in both 2019 and 2020. Motion carried.

MEETING WITH DEPARTMENT OF TIR OFFICIALS

The CAO is to contact the Department of TIR officials and thank them for hosting the meeting and the open dialogue on transportation issues and concerns.

It was indicated that at the NSFM's Ministers Panel at the November conference that most questions were addressed to Honourable Lloyd Hines, Minister of TIR. Road issues are a concern right across the province.

The construction and traffic stoppages at the Irving/Tim Hortons site were discussed.

ROAD NAME CHANGE

Approval was received from both the Eastern District Planning Commission and the Department of TIR on a private road at Ingonish Centre as "Stuart's Lane".

It was moved and seconded that Council approve the private road name of Stuart's Lane, Ingonish Centre. Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #1

District #1 is returning under the jurisdiction of the Baddeck Department of TIR. An exact date was not provided but it was indicated that it would be by the first snowfall. We have had the first snowfall, but the status is unknown. TIR is to be contacted to see when the actual transition is taking place.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that a former resident of his district is currently in the Nurse Practitioner Program at Dalhousie, graduating next year, and would be interested in coming to this area. Her name will be forwarded to the CAO.

District #2

Councillor MacLeod thanked the CAO for taking her daughter, Mary, to work at the Court House for the day in the "take your child to work day".

The Warden, on behalf of all Council, welcomed Councillor MacLeod back to Council after being absent due to illness.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis advised that there is graffiti on the County sign at the CBRM/Victoria County boundary at Fife's Brook, Big Bras d'Or.

The Public Works Department is to be contacted to remove the graffiti.

Councillor MacInnis thanked the CAO for visiting his district. There is much more to show and indicated it would take 2 days to cover the entire district.

District #5

Councillor Patterson commented on the new Inverness County signs. He indicated he prefers the Victoria County signs.

An unsightly premises related to garbage was discussed and Councillor Patterson will contact David MacKenzie to investigate.

District #3

Warden Morrison advised that the Municipality is fortunate to have great representation at the Family Medicine Forum in Toronto. Graham MacKenzie and Dr. David Heughan are in attendance and also Dr. Nicola Smith and Emmanuel Comtois from the northern area of the County.

Appropriate recognition will be provided to these individuals for their time and effort.

Dr. Monika Dutt, who used to be in Cape Breton and who is now North of Toronto will be attending the Family Medicine Forum and also promote the County as a place to work.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councillor MacNeil attended the Senior Council CEPI meeting recently where their 2019 Budget Work Plan was approved.

Warden Morrison, as new appointee to the Cape Breton Regional Library Board, visited the Truro and Halifax Libraries recently. They are state of the art facilities. The Committee is looking for a new library in CBRM. The Warden reiterated that support would be provided, as long as Victoria County does not lose any services.

There will be a welcome for the Esmeel Family from Syria who are settled in Baddeck on Saturday, November 17, 2018, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Baddeck Community Centre. A certificate was created to be signed by the Warden and Councillor MacLeod and presented to the Esmeel family at the welcome ceremonies.

Councillor Patterson updated on the Cannabis Committee held recently. They are looking for a Village Commission representative to sit on the committee.

Councillor MacLeod indicated that Hillcrest Drive needs patching and gravel. Part of the road is pavement and part is gravel. The RCMP request maintenance because traffic is travelling on the wrong side of the road to avoid potholes. This will be added to the letter to TIR.

Whether an alternate date was offered for Janet Knox to meet with Council was questioned. Her assistant indicated a new date would be arranged.

The CAO advised that Marie Walsh, CAO of CBRM, has presented a position paper, with recommendations, on the CAP assessment.

CBRM and East Hants hope to undertake a pilot project in this regard and are asking for municipal support. If all goes well, then this project can be rolled out across the province.

Marie Walsh will come to Council to present on this topic and Council felt it would be worthwhile to have her present.

The Property Valuation Services Corporation is looking for representatives to serve on their Board. Anyone interested in serving on the PVSC Board are to have their application submitted by tomorrow's deadline.

CHRISTMAS PARADE

The Christmas Parades in both areas of the County will be held on the weekend of November 23-24th. The Municipality will be putting a float in both parades.

The CAO outlined the plans for decorating the Court House building this year.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, it was moved to adjourn at 6:00 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Leanne MacEachen, CAO