

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
December 19, 2018

A meeting of Victoria county Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Wednesday, December 19, 2018, beginning at 4:10 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:

Leanne MacEachen, CAO
Alix Redden, CFO
Zina MacNeil, Recorder

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was presented for approval. The Cape Breton Regional Library could not be here, Baddeck Day Care will do a presentation in that time slot.

It was moved and seconded to accept the revised agenda. Motion carried.

DAY CARE PRESENTATION/MATT HART-GWEN JARABEK

Matt Hart and Gwen Jarabek were welcomed to council.

Mr. Hart mentioned he was a lawyer who moved back to Baddeck with his family and has found the lack of childcare in the area a huge impact on professionals who want to continue to work. They are in the process of putting an application together for a Day Care in Baddeck. They are asking council for two things, one to provide a letter of support, to go along with their application, and two to put out positive messaging on the project. We need this type of facility for new parents moving to a rural setting. Most professionals don't want to stay at home but because of the lack of day care they do.

Ms. Jarabek spoke as the Director of Home Support where employee schedules are impacted by day care issues. It also impacts hiring employees when there is no day care available in

the area, not only for them but for other businesses. It is the mandate for Home Support to be able to recruit workers and keep them.

They are looking at the potential partnering with the fire department, and it could mean Home Support sharing the rent with the Day Care, which would be offering a service professionals would no longer have to travel away for. Seniors integration with childcare is another part of what can be done. The community centre building is a ground floor level, has a functional kitchen and bathrooms. Day Cares can exist in multi-use space.

The group said it was their wish to inform council about the conversations they are having with putting the application together and looking for input from council as well. They are working with a childcare consultant who is helping them with the process. We need council's help getting out a positive message on the project as well as a letter of support from council to submit with the application.

There are eleven counties in NS targeted for funding for childcare. Victoria County is not one of the counties, but could be considered for an exemption. So in summary the group is trying to accommodate employees that have no childcare and possibly seniors coming together. Jarabek and Hart said they are building a plan on what can be offered, providing affordable, accessible space. The next step is to prove Victoria County is underserved in terms of child care options.

District #1 commented that child care issue has come up numerous times, the momentum is building now. He fully supports it. Families in his are travel a great distance for child care.

District#2 shares the same story and has gone through it herself. Happy someone is stepping up and they will reach out to community to get numbers to support the endeavour. We need to start building the argument that we are underserved and get parents on board.

District #4 it is interesting and wonderful asset to the county and supports it.

District #8 great presentation, we have a facility north of Smokey and it is fully booked so I support it.

District#7 thank you, great idea and fully support.

District#6 it is the key thing we need, lack of staff and housing in Ingonish, and childcare is critical so fully support.

District#5 it is the trend of people in his area would probably come to Baddeck instead of North Sydney if it was available. Welcome back to Victoria County to Matt and Gwen. Day care is a small price to pay to keep new families here. It will be interesting to see the census as there seems to be an increase in people moving back.

District#3 has heard a lot about it and sessions have been held north and south and no interest before. It could be more successful with more than just the day care.

Ms. Jarabek mentioned that it is still being built and collaborating still to be worked out. They would most likely be hiring a director to run the operation, and may be able to get staff under the benefits package with home support.

It was moved and seconded that council provide a letter of support for the group for their application and provide positive messaging from Cape North to Iona. Motion carried

The Day Care group will let us know the name of the organization for the letter of support. Council advised they give their assurance they would provide positive messaging through their districts. If down the road they can provide assistance, budget negotiations are early in the spring.

Thanks were given to the group on the excellent initiative with the full support of council.

COUNCIL STIPEND

With Revenue Canada removing the 1/3 non-taxable portion of council stipends, it was brought to previous council sessions, where the CFO was asked to bring some proposals forward for a potential decision. In review of our own records it was found that in January of 2004 any increase council received was tied with staff negotiations. Council is looking at rescinding that motion.

NOTICE OF MOTION

**MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF VICTORIA
RESOLUTION RE RESCINDING MOTION OF JANUARY 8, 2004**

WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of the County of Victoria has previously received 1/3 of its regular stipend rate as a tax-free exemption from the Federal Government;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of the County of Victoria seeks to amend its stipend;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of the County of Victoria previously passed a motion on January 8, 2004, that the Council stipend would increase by the same percentage, with the same signing bonus, as Union and Non-Union staff and that all future stipend increases would coincide with increases received during Union negotiations;

AND UPON notice of this Motion to rescind the Motion of January 8, 2004 having been given on December 19, 2018;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Municipality of the County of Victoria hereby rescinds the Motion of January 8, 2004, and that any increase to the Council stipend shall no longer be tied, directly or indirectly, to Union negotiations;

RESOLUTION passed at a duly convened Meeting of Council of the Municipality of the County of Victoria on the 19th day of December, 2018.

DATED at Baddeck, Nova Scotia, this 19th day of December, 2018.

It was moved and seconded that the Notice of Motion to rescind the January 8, 2004 motion on council stipends be passed and presented at the first meeting of Council in January. Motion carried.

CFO PRESENTATION 3 OPTIONS STIPEND

Alix Redden, was asked to show three options to council for discussion and review.

Option#1, the stipends would stay status quo with no change, resulting in a decrease in take home pay.

Option#2, the stipends would increase by 12% with take home pay staying same as now.

Option#3, is to defer the stipend change to budget deliberations.

Discussions took place, and it is something Council had no control over with the change by Revenue Canada. It would have been much easier if the change was put in place at the being of term of council so people running would know what they signed up for. The NSFMR recommended that revenue Canada not change the 1/3 but they did it anyway.

It was moved and seconded to send a request to the province requesting information on what other municipalities are receiving and what council should be receiving. Motion carried.

Norman Matheson commented that most people would like to have a second income, there other people struggling and council weren't.

Elmoune MacKinnon has requested information and feels an increase is wrong and would like to have copies of the CFO's Options to compare to the information he has. He will send the Warden an email with his comments.

Merrill Buchanan tried to gather more background on the proposal from CRA and address the personal income tax on councillors. The previous 1/3 was non-taxable and non-accountable, times have changed, but there are expenses that are reimbursable. The travel policy could be amended to offset the difference. He recommended a thorough review since there was no adjustment in a while, to see where we stand in comparison to other municipalities. If it was reviewed by an independent committee to review it, it would be transparent and more acceptable.

Warden Morrison thanked the public for their input. Warden Morrison advised that when council decided on a date for a January meeting a formal rescind of the 2004 motion and a decision on one of the 3 options presented on council stipends.

RECESS

Warden Morrison advised the Council would recess for 10 minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the December 4, 2018 meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of December 4, 2018, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Deputy Warden Dauphinee asked if the amount of garbage really decreased from last year, curious if we are making any headway. Jocelyn Bethune commented that she spoke with collections and the food waste is down. Rejections have gone down from 78 to 50 per week. She will give another update in January.

Councillor MacLeod reported a Remembrance for Violence Against Women was held on the front steps of the Courthouse. She thanked and appreciated the staff support, there was a good turnout.

Councillor MacLeod reported that baskets of appreciation were done up for those who participated in the Family Medicine Forum in Ontario on our behalf. Deputy Warden Dauphinee would take the one north.

A debriefing meeting was held with the folks who went to the Dr. Recruitment as our representatives. They reported a lot of good feedback and recommendations. A platform for recruitment will be derived once we compile all the recommendations.

Warden Morrison congratulated staff and council on the great job on the Christmas Party. It was a great venue and great evening.

Janice Knox, District Health Authority is available on January 29th. The CAO will confirm the meeting as a special meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

The CAO had an email from the NSFM if we were interested in being part of the pilot project to remove the CAP. Marie Walsh said CBRM are going ahead with it and East Hants. We need to respond by December 21 if we want to be a part of it.

It was moved and seconded, that Victoria County be a part in the pilot project to remove the CAP. Motion carried.

The CAO received correspondence from Darren Shoupe on the rural health care crisis wondering if anyone on this end of the province was interested in being involved. There is a meeting on January 8 at 10:30. Leanne will email the information to council to see who is interested in attending.

The CAO informed council that she is signing staff up for training on Cannabis in the Workplace. There are 5 modules and will be taken place in 2019.

Family Medicine Forum conference this coming year is in Vancouver, February 1 is the early bird registration for a booth if we are interested. There is also a Rural and Remote Dr's Conference in Halifax April 4-6, and Atlantic one which based on the Dr's comments would be very good to attend.

It was moved and seconded to get a booth and send attendees to Rural and Remote Dr's Conference. Motion carried.

Leanne reported to council that union negotiations have started. They had a meeting and exchanged proposals. There would be more meetings in January.

Leanne reported that she was very pleased with the tax collections. Current is caught up and arrears are down. We went from \$2.02 million last year to \$1.85 this year. She will be keeping on with it but wanted to thank staff.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

#5 NO

#6 Ingonish Beach Barrier is still an issue the Province is not willing to do anything. Can we ask them for permission to access the land so as to begin to repair it; if we do not hear from the province by January 2, 2019, we will assume they have granted permission.

It was moved and seconded that letters be sent to the Minister of Fisheries, Minister of Environment, and Department of Natural Resources to repair the Barrier to at least get us through the winter. Motion carried.

#8 Concern on a hazard issue in relation to the line of sight at 3236 Bay St. Lawrence Rd on a turn. Brush is overhanging limits of the roadway.

It was moved and seconded that \$200 be taken from District#8 budget for tree removal services. Motion carried.

Concerns on North Mountain closure – the CAO was asked if she had Leanne received any correspondence on it. She commented she had not received any feedback on it.

#4 Had a request from a community group on putting in raised beds on the North Shore School Property. There is a concrete pad there and would like to put in garden beds for the elderly people. There is lots of water there. It was recommended the group contact the CAO to do a presentation before council.

Had a request on where to send applications for facility access grants for funding.

The CAO reported that we didn't receive all the provincial funding requested for specific projects. We only received half of what was applied for.

It isn't municipal funding - it is provincial. We need to get a list of approved groups and projects so they can contact Alix if approved. There was more put in for funding than we received from the province. We did not qualify for the After School Time Period funding this year so we are trying to get in other ways.

#2 Transit update, Greg Sewell , Province they have high hopes, the PR and Advertising is lacking but should be up and running in the spring.

It was moved and seconded that a letter of congratulations be sent to Betty MacDonald who retired from the NSF. Motion carried.

#1 The 5 year road plan came out and the Gillis Point Completion was not on it. NSTIR said at the last meeting it would be included.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be sent to Department of Transportation asking why those 2.6 kilometers is not on the 5 year plan. Motion carried.

#2 Asked the CAO to look into the Moose Cull in North Mountain. The RCMP received significant overtime for it. Who asked for the cull and why are we paying? RCMP and Parks Canada never contacted us for the cull. Why are we paying?

It has been awhile since National Park and RCMP have been to council the CAO is asked to send an invitation to them.

Terry Murray Kerr returned to Australia and asked to wish all council and staff and very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

NEXT MEETING

The Warden wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 7 at 5 with two presentations.

ADJOURN

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.

