

***VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL***

***January 7, 2019***

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, January 7, 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 #4 – Merrill MacInnis  
District #5 – Fraser Patterson  
District #6 – Larry Dauphinee, Deputy Warden  
District #8 – Norman MacDonald

Also present were:

Leanne MacEachen, CAO  
Alix Reddin, CFO  
Heather MacLean, Recorder

Absent was:

District #7 – Wayne Budge (Due to Illness)

***CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA***

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order and presented the agenda for approval. He indicated that the Notice of Motion agenda item will be moved up on the agenda before the Council Stipend item is discussed.

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

***SYDNEY AIRPORT PRESENTATION***

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Courtney Davis, Marketing and Communications Coordinator, J A. Douglas McCurdy Sydney Airport (YQY), who was in

attendance of make a presentation on a case for connection between Victoria County and the Sydney Airport (copy attached).

Ms. Davis outlined their mission statement - "The Sydney Airport Authority is committed to the betterment of its community and the local economy by providing quality, safe and accessible aviation services and facilities for the traveling public and for the people and businesses of Cape Breton Island".

The Sydney Airport was first developed in 1929 through the Cape Breton Flying Club. It is locally owned and operated and the area includes all land and infrastructure within its boundaries. Their operations are not funded by the government and they are a local business that depends on local support. J. A. Douglas McCurdy, for whom the airport is named, was born and raised in Baddeck and Baddeck Bay is where aviation began on February 23, 1909.

Ms. Davis indicated the reasons Victoria County residents should choose to fly from the Sydney Airport. They employ over 140 people. YQY is only two hours from Toronto and you can connect anywhere worldwide. Flying from YQY assists with the local tourist industry.

Ms. Davis provided her contact information and encouraged Council to contact her if they have any suggestions on how YQY can better meet the needs of Victoria County residents.

The question was raised whether the Sydney Airport has the capability to land large cargo planes and Ms. Davis advised that they can accommodate large cargo planes.

Discussion took place on the rates from Sydney vs rates from Halifax Airport and whether there were any talks on lowering their rates. Ms. Davis indicated that booking early ensures better rates. The wait time for connection flights from Halifax was discussed and was a concern also.

Council agreed that the Sydney Airport is a vital service which needs to be retained. Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Courtney Davis for her presentation and indicated that Victoria County will do their best to support the Sydney Airport in the future.

**NOTICE OF MOTION**

Warden Morrison indicated that notice of motion was given at the December 19, 2018, meeting to rescind the motion of January 8, 2004, pertaining to Council stipends. He reviewed the Notice of Motion with Council.

**It was moved and seconded that the Municipality of the County of Victoria rescind the motion of January 8, 2004, and that any increase to Council stipends shall no longer be tied, directly or indirectly, to Union negotiations. Motion carried.**

### **COUNCIL STIPENDS**

The three options with regard to Council stipends were again presented.

Option #1 – Stipends would remain status quo, resulting in a decrease in take home pay.

Option #2 – Stipends increase by 12% to result in a net nil take home pay

Option #3 – Defer the stipend change decision to budget deliberations

Warden Morrison did a poll of all Councillors present and all concurred with Option #2.

**It was moved and seconded that effective January 1, 2019, Council stipends increase by 12%, resulting in a net nil take home pay for Councillors. Motion carried.**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 19, 2019**

The minutes of the December 19, 2019, session of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

**It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of December 19, 2019, be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **CAO REPORT**

Leanne MacEachen, CAO, presented her update to Council.

- The County is registered for the Rural and Remote Health Care Forum in Halifax on April 4-6, 2019.

- Janet Knox, President and CEO of the Nova Scotia Health Authority will be meeting with Council on January 29, 2019, at 4:30 p.m.
- Blair Hardy, CBHNP, has been contacted regarding response to North Mountain and he or Eric LeBel will come to Council with regard to the moose cull
- Registered for the Rural Nova Scotia Healthcare Crisis Working Group and the next meeting is tomorrow at 10:30 a.m.
- The Re-Use Centre at the Baddeck Solid Waste Facility is closed until March 2, 2019. \$7,500.00 has been raised at the Centre, with 6 non-profit groups benefitting.
- Ingonish Barrier letter received and TIR is waiting on procurement secured by tender for the Road.
- Pride Flag has been ordered
- RCMP will be coming to Council

The CAO outlined meeting she has attended since the last meeting.

Discussion took place on the Re-Use Centre. The materials purchased at this facility are being diverted from the Landfill. The possibility of making application for green power for the Re-Use building was discussed and will be investigated.

It was suggested that application be made for the NSFM Environment Award for the Re-Use Centre. This award is \$2,500.00 and could assist in a power source for the centre. Debbie Nielsen, NSFM, is to be contacted with regard to applying for this award.

### **COFFEE BREAK**

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

### **TAXATION UPDATE**

The CAO advised that arrears balance is \$774,469, down from \$920,429 at the same time last year for a difference of \$145,960.

Since the December 17, 2018, meeting \$13,346 has been collected.

The accounts receivable on current is \$993,018, down from \$1,012,667, last year, resulting in current collection being ahead by \$19,649 over the same time last year.

In total collections are ahead \$166,000 from the same period last year.

Council indicated that this is good news and requested to pass on their appreciation to staff for their collection efforts.

**DISTRICT CONCERNS**

**District #5**

Councillor Patterson indicated that he passed on a couple of dog incidents in his district and the CAO advised that she referred them on to the Dog Controller.

The status of the complaints will be investigated.

**District #6**

Deputy Warden Dauphinee mentioned the tragic incident that occurred on Christmas Eve in the north of Smokey area. He wished to commend Lyle Donovan, EMC, for his efforts to set up counselling services for the first responders and fire members who attended this accident. He had services available within three hours of the event and the recipients were grateful for this service.

The CAO is to contact the Province with regard to the Ingonish Barrier application and ask for a decision on this matter.

**District #8**

Councillor MacDonald indicated that the distance from the turnoff at Cape North to North Mountain is 11.2 km and residents have travelled that distance only to have to turn around and go back home because of the closure. The CBHNP Superintendent was contacted and has agreed to set up a sign at the intersection of Cape North so residents will know when mountain is closed. This will be done with the assistance of TIR.

The Bay St. Lawrence Recreation Society has set up an outdoor rink in the community and are looking for direction with regard to a receiving a recreation grant as other rinks in the County.

**It was moved and seconded that this request be forwarded to Tom Wilson, Director of Recreation and Tourism, for review and consideration. Motion carried.**

**District #4**

A group of residents in District #4 are wishing to access the North Shore School property to locate raised garden beds.

This group is to be invited to attend the January 21, 2019, Council meeting to outline their request. Councillor MacInnis will advise them of their time on the agenda.

**It was moved and seconded to approve the relocation of a street light in District #4, the locations to be provided at a later date. Motion carried.**

**District #2**

Councillor MacLeod brought up a concern with regard to the highways not being plowed in a timely manner. The Operations Supervisor for the Baddeck area does not live in Victoria County and she questioned if he waited to get to Victoria County before dispatching plows thereby creating the delay.

**It was moved and seconded that Stephen MacDonald, Area Manager, be contacted with regard to when the snowplows are called out. Motion carried.**

**District #1**

Councillor MacNeil indicated that the Iona Peninsula is now under the Baddeck TIR jurisdiction but no official notice has been received. He would like to receive official notice and be advised of the contact information and numbers for the Baddeck TIR contacts.

This matter will be included in the letter to Stephen MacDonald, Area Manager, Baddeck.

Heather Sparling, Cape Breton University, is proposing a four day Gaelic Language Revitalization through Music Workshop in the fall of 2019 and is requesting funding.

**It was moved and seconded that this matter be referred to 2019/2020 budget talks. Motion carried.**

**District #3**

A presentation was received from Gordon Smith, Provincial Director of Planning, Department of Municipal Affairs, with regard to minimum planning standards that the Province is planning to legislate in the spring of 2019. It was felt that any cost incurred should be borne by the Province.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs expressing our support for the implementation of minimum planning standards and advising that the Municipality is not prepared to incur any costs for same, as this is a provincial matter. Motion carried.**

Mr. Smith also made reference to coastal protection. As Victoria County has a large coastal area, both on the Atlantic Ocean and the Bras d'Or Lakes, legislation pertaining to coastal protection will have a significant impact on the Municipality.

**It was moved and seconded that John Somers, Coastal Protection, Department of Environment, be requested to come to Council in February to outline the impacts of the Coastal Protection Act on Victoria County. Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

The Public Works Committee will meet on Monday, January 21, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. prior to Council.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councillor Patterson indicated that the applications for the Senior Safety Officer Term position were reviewed and shortlisted. Interviews will be held on Monday, January 21, 2019.

**CAO PERFORMANCE REVIEW**

The Warden advised that a performance review of the CAO was recently completed as required.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held on Monday, January 21, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. at the Court House, Baddeck.

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.**

**Bruce Morrison, Warden**

**Leanne MacEachen, CAO**

