

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

February 4, 2019

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, February 4, 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 #7 – Wayne Budge
District #8 – Norman MacDonald

Also present were:

Leanne MacEachen, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recorder

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order and presented the agenda for approval. He indicated that there were changes in the agenda as the CBRM presentation on the CAP assessment and the St. Ann's Bay Time Bank/Community Garden presentation were both cancelled due to weather conditions.

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

EMPLOYEE SERVICE RECOGNITION AWARDS

Warden Morrison advised that a number of staff have reached milestones and will be receiving Employee Service Recognition Awards this evening. He called upon Leanne MacEachen, CAO, to present the awards.

A 15 year award, which was achieved in 2017, was presented to Gordie Roberts who has worked in the scale house, maintenance and currently is on the collection crew. Mr. Roberts was in attendance to accept his award.

Greg Ingraham, Neil's Harbour Enviro-Depot Manager, also achieved 15 years with the Municipality. Mr. Ingraham was not in attendance and Councillors Norman MacDonald or Wayne Budge will ensure he receives his award.

Both John Berk, Animal Controller for south of Smokey, and Terry Hogan, Animal Controller for north of Smokey, have achieved their 10 year awards with the Municipality. Neither was in attendance to receive their award.

Megan Cooper, Administrative Assistant, Public Works/Village, was in attendance to receive her 5 year service award. Megan has worked in the Tax Office prior to her current position.

Bruce D. Morrison, who has served in waste collection, carpentry and maintenance, achieved his 5 year service award. He was not in attendance to receive the award, but it will be given to him.

Warden Morrison indicated that a senior staff member, Tom Wilson, Director of Recreation and Tourism, will be retiring at the fiscal year end, March 31, 2019. Mr. Wilson achieved a 38 year career with the Municipality. Warden Morrison made a presentation to Mr. Wilson on behalf of Council.

Mr. Wilson thanked Council for their presentation and advised that he has enjoyed his 38 years with the Municipality and made recommendations on what to look for in his replacement.

FESTIVILLE BADDECK

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Rose Pino and Tracey Campbell, representing Festiville Baddeck Society.

Ms. Pino thanked Council for allowing them to present on behalf of Festiville Baddeck. District funds have been received in the past from Councillors, but Ms. Pino indicated that this year they are requesting \$2,500.00 from the Municipality as a whole. Festiville Baddeck is considered an event that promotes all of Victoria County.

There will be two events in 2019, on July 6, 2019, and again on August 5, 2019. The July event will take place on a Saturday for the first time.

Festiville Baddeck Society is a registered non-profit society. When they established the festival, they had no idea the magnitude of its success. Each year over 10,000 people attend the events and it is a great boost for the businesses on Chebucto Street. Money made by the event is reinvested in the community.

Tracey Campbell advised that Festiville Baddeck is a close to breakeven event and she mentioned the community sponsors. It has been an amazing event for the area.

All Council members commended the organizers on the success of Festiville Baddeck.

Councillor MacInnis indicated that Bounty Bay Fisheries produces fresh mussels locally and consideration in partnering with Bounty Bay for the Festiville event was discussed. Scott Dockendorff is the company contact.

Warden Morrison indicated that he has attended all of the Festiville Baddeck's events and it is indeed a signature event for the community.

It was moved and seconded that Festiville Baddeck Society's request for funding in the amount of \$2,500.00 be referred to budget. Motion carried.

Leanne MacEachen offered her congratulations and guaranteed the Municipality's volunteer support at the same level as last year.

Rosalie Pino indicated that they are working with the Gaelic College's KitchenFest for the July 6, 2019, event.

Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Ms. Pino and Ms. Campbell and they left at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 21, 2019

The minutes of the January 21, 2019, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of January 21, 2019, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Ingonish Barrier Beach

Deputy Warden Dauphinee indicated that approval was received to proceed with a temporary repair to the Ingonish Barrier Beach and the work is to commence on Friday, February 8, 2019.

Strait Area Transit

Strait Area Transit will be presenting to Council on February 25, 2019.

Central Cape Breton Community Ventures

Councillor MacNeil indicated that members of the Cape Breton Partnership met with Central Cape Breton Community Ventures representatives with regard to the Iona Port. Details will be provided at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS

CAO Report

Leanne MacEachen indicated that she has contacted Brad Mercer, Ingraham Varner & Associates, to do the Baddeck Volunteer Fire Department appraisal.

Victoria County's decision on the Council Stipend issue was forwarded to Will Brook, NSFM, as requested. She also indicated Council's feelings that the direction for Council stipend raises should come down from the Province was also mentioned.

The compilation of organizations who applied for provincial grant funding over the past two years was discussed. Councillors will compile what they know within their districts and provide the compiled list to the MLA who will present the lack of provincial funding for Victoria County to the Legislature.

Communities in Bloom information was received and forwarded to consider if there is interest in participating in this program.

The Council and Staff training workshop conducted by Gordon McIntosh will be held on February 17 and 18, 2019.

A staff in-service day will take place on March 6, 2019. All facilities will be closed on that day for all staff to participate.

Victoria County has a booth booked for the Rural and Remote Medicine Conference in Halifax from April 4-6, 2019.

DESTINATION CAPE BRETON ASSOCIATION

Mary Tulle retired from Destination Cape Breton Association on December 31, 2018, and Terry Smith has been appointed as the new CEO.

It was moved and seconded that a letter of congratulations be sent to Mary Tulle on her retirement and to Terry Smith on his appointment as DCBA's CEO. Motion carried.

TAXATION UPDATE

The CAO advised that the arrears balance is down from \$864,000 this time last year to \$720,533 this year, for a difference of \$144,067. Since the January 21, 2019, meeting of Council, \$48,243 have been collected on the arrears.

Collection of current is behind from last year. Last year at this time there were \$929,097 owing and this year \$930,509 - \$1,412 behind last year.

The next scheduled Tax Sale will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. in the Court Room, Court House.

Leanne MacEachen advised that her goal is to get as many properties to Tax Sale as she can. There is a time lag from the search to when they are received back from the Solicitor. The possibility of Council assuming more risk was discussed and is to be considered.

WELCOME

Warden Morrison recognized Dr. Jamie Tribo and her partner, Vince Block, who were in attendance at the meeting. Each member of Council introduced themselves and a general discussion was held.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #1

It was moved and seconded that a letter of support be provided to the Grand Narrows Waterfront Development Society for upgrades to the waterfront area for the 100th anniversary celebrations of the Grand Narrows to Iona Ferry service. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal questioning on the status of the remaining 1 km of work for the Red Point Road now that District #1 has returned under the jurisdiction of the Baddeck TIR Office. Motion carried.

District #2

It was moved and seconded that a street light repair order be placed for 1473 West Side Middle River Road. Motion carried.

Councillor MacLeod brought up a concern with regard to placements in Homes for Special Care. She felt there should be more humanity and common sense when placing residents in homes. Some residents from the area are being placed in homes away from their community and residents from other communities are being placed in our County. It makes it difficult for families with the travel involved.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Health and Wellness requesting that when considering admissions to Homes for Special Care, the local homes be considered for local residents, rather than placing them outside their community, or when there is the ability to transfer residents to their home community, it be undertaken. Motion carried.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis requested that the St. Ann's Bay Time Bank/Community Garden presentation be included on the March 11, 2019, Council agenda.

Councillor MacInnis questioned on who the Supervisor of Conveyance was for the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional Centre for Education. He was advised that Tara Gaskell is in this position.

Councillor MacInnis requested that a street light repair for a street light out at Exit 10, Baddeck Bay, be reported.

District #8

Councillor MacDonald indicated that on Wednesday past, it was learned that the current laboratory technologist at Buchanan Memorial Hospital is leaving and will be replaced by a POCT (point of care testing). The residents of the area are quite upset with this action.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Janet Knox, President and CEO of NSHA, requesting that representatives from NSHA come to the both areas of Victoria County to explain POTC testing and the laboratory services that will be provided at both areas. (copy to Mark Eyking, MP and Keith Bain, MLA) Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to Linda Murray on being awarded the "2018 Cross-Country Ski de fond Canada Firth Award" which recognizes women who have made an outstanding contribution to cross country skiing in Canada. Motion carried.

District #6

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Janet Knox, President and CEO, NSHA, advising that Council will travel to Halifax to meet with her and her team in Halifax if she is unable to come to Victoria County. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee brought up the email received concerning Victoria County's wet/dry status. It was indicated that changes were made to the *Liquor Control Act* in this regard.

District #3

Warden Morrison indicated that a couple of years ago, a presentation was made by the CBI Housing Authority and the fact that Victoria County was underfunded for seniors housing. The current waitlist at Lakeview Manor in Baddeck is 16. Additional seniors housing is needed.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be written to the Minister Responsible for Housing Nova Scotia advising that Victoria County is underfunded for seniors facilities and request that consideration be given to providing additional housing for the County. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Department of TIR asking when repairs will be undertaken on the Village of Baddeck streets. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councillor MacLeod indicated that she and Councillor Patterson have attended meetings of SAT and advised that transit is coming to Victoria County. A presentation will be made at the next Council session.

BY-LAW/POLICY REVIEW

The CAO advised that a Committee has been established to review existing and formulate new policies and by-laws.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from the Mining Association of Nova Scotia requesting support for their Minerals Play Fairway Project.

This letter will be emailed to all Council members and addressed at the next Council meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, February 25, 2019, at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, it was moved and seconded to adjourn at 6:15 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Leanne MacEachen, CAO