

***VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL***

***March 11, 2019***

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, March 11, 2019, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Bruce Morrison in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil  
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  
Zina MacNeil, Recorder

Absent were:

District #1 – Perla MacLeod (Unavailable – Absent with reason)  
District #5 – Fraser Patterson (Out of Country)

**CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order and presented the agenda for approval. The St. Ann's Bay Time Bank/Community Garden presentation has been cancelled for tonight and John Bain, Director of the EDPC, will be in attendance instead of Jonathan Martin, with regard to a dangerous and unsightly premises matter.

**It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda with the noted changes. Motion carried.**

**JOHN BAIN, DIRECTOR, EDPC – DANGEROUS AND UNSIGHTLY PREMISES**

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to John Bain, Director, EDPC, who was in attendance with regard to a Dangerous and Unsightly Premises located at 36 Tamarack Drive, Baddeck Inlet, assessed in the name of Dennis Buchanan and Brenda Billard.

Mr. Bain advised that a presentation was made on this property in October, 2018, and Council moved that an “Order of Remedy Condition” be issued and that Order be a Demolition Order issued by Council to Dennis Buchanan and Brenda Billard.

The owners indicated they were not aware until the order was expired. Registered letters signed for were not open. The owner is in attendance tonight.

Mr. Bain indicated the property was posted and the EDPC went above and beyond with registered letters. The Order was not completed due to the weather condition and no access on the road to the building in question.

The concern is that the structure is open and accessible. The foundation is collapsed and scaffolding is supporting a loading beam. There is no support under the bearing wall. It is no longer suitable for human habitation, is unsightly and extremely hazardous.

If the owner wishes to repair the building, they must submit a detailed set of plans completed by a professional engineer. Nothing else would be sufficient. If the owner makes application for a building permit, the set of plans and process outlined by the professional engineer that the work can be done in a safe manner must be included.

Mr. Bain indicated that the Order issued back in October, is still the recommendation tonight. The Order should give 30 days notice to remedy condition and failure to do so, the Municipality will tender to demolish this property and recoup the costs on the owners’ taxes.

Mr. Dennis Buchanan, one of the owners of the property, was in attendance to explain his side of the issue. The first notice he received was from his nephew who saw the posting on the property. He indicated that he received the Registered Letter a week ago Thursday and had little or no time to obtain plans. He contacted a contractor who visited the site with him on Sunday and saw no problem to repair the building. He outlined the contractor’s comments to Council.

The property is owned by family and one family member put the complaint in. That family member would not give Mr. Buchanan an electrical connection. The letter Mr. Buchanan now has in his possession is dated February 20, 2019. The other address where the letters were sent was his sister and she did not open them.

Mr. Buchanan agreed that the building requires work and is in some state of disrepair, but his contractor says it can be fixed.

John Bain is requesting that the process be started again for this property and that an “Order to Remedy Condition” be again issued to Dennis Buchanan and Brenda Billard, and that the Order be a Demolition Order issued by Council and it be a 30 day Order that the dwelling be demolished and all debris be removed and disposed of in the appropriate manner.

Mr. Buchanan was extended a thank you for presenting his case before Council.

John Bain will send the 30 day Order and Council will receive a progress report on this issue as it occurs.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 25, 2019**

The minutes of the February 25, 2019, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

**It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of February 25, 2019, be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Traffic Counts**

A letter was sent to the Department of TIR that Council was not interested in paying for traffic counts.

The province sends this request to Council for counts on municipal streets and only if we want these counted. For regular counts, the Province bears the cost.

**Wagmatcook**

A letter was received from Chief Norman Bernard on the provincial court in Wagmatcook requesting consideration be given to operating and maintenance assistance from the County.

The CAO indicated that she is in the process of trying to have a joint meeting arranged between Council and the Wagmatcook Band Council on other issues and will refer this request to that meeting when decided.

**Washroom Project**

The washroom project is going ahead. Quotes are being requested for one at the Baddeck VIC and all along the Cabot Trail. The RFP will be for compostable washrooms.

**Budget Meeting**

A Budget Meeting was held on March 7, 2019, and it was a productive day. There were good discussions and Public Works presented. A Capital Budget Day will be held in the near future. A list of prioritized Public Works request, as well as our own will be compiled.

The first draft was completed on Thursday and will be fine-tuned in a second draft.

**In Service Staff Day**

The In Service staff day held on March 6, 2019, was well-received. Presentations were received from Manulife on retirement planning and Great West Life on medical benefits. Morneau Shepell presented on conflict and rumors in the workplace and the role of the CAO/Council was outlined.

**Strategic Priorities Session**

The Strategic Priorities Chart is included on the agenda. Leanne MacEachen requested Council to review and provide comments on same.

**Seniors Safety Officer**

Kristi Farrier, Seniors Safety Officer, has begun to meet with Councillors to come up with items that are important to their districts.

**Nova Scotia Health Authority**

The CAO advised that she had two meetings with NSHA last week, one the session Council attended with Janet Knox, President and CEO, NSHA, and a meeting she attended with Dr. Grayson Fulmore related to physician recruitment.

The Municipality will be hosting a booth at the Rural and Remote 2019, session in Halifax, from April 4-6, 2019.

**CAO/Wardens Meeting**

A meeting was held in Antigonish earlier today of area CAO/Wardens on issues important to all areas and in the afternoon the Warden and CAO attended an LOC meeting of the CBREN.

**Retirement**

Tom Wilson will be retiring as of March 31, 2019, and the final touches are being completed on a job description for a Tourism and Culture Development Officer. The position will be posted in the near future and subsequent to that, also a Recreation Officer will be advertised.

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

Councillor MacNeil brought up the application for funding from the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association for their conference to be held in Wagmatcook and Baddeck. They requested \$10,000.00 from the Municipality and this is part of the community grant discussion.

They need an indication by March 15, 2019, for their meeting with ACOA. The Municipality can provide acknowledgment of the request for support and that it is contingent on other funding.

**RECESS**

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

**PROCLAMATION – PURPLE DAY**

Warden Morrison read a Purple Day for Epilepsy Proclamation, proclaiming March 26, 2019, as Purple Day in Nova Scotia, in an effort to raise epilepsy awareness everywhere.

It was moved and seconded that March 26, 2019, be proclaimed Purple Day in an effort to raise epilepsy awareness. Motion carried.

**DISTRICT CONCERNS**

**District #6**

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of TIR and Stephen MacDonald, Area Manager, TIR, on the condition of Roper's Bridge and that an inspection of the bridge be conducted before the construction season begins. Motion carried.

**District #8**

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of TIR and Stephen MacDonald, Area Manager, TIR, requesting they come to the area to update on their long-term plans for the Dingwall Road in Victoria County as there are no shoulders, guardrail or road maintenance done since the Minister was appointed. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Keith Bain, MLA, Victoria-The Lakes, on his efforts to bring the concerns with Buchanan Memorial Hospital to the Legislature. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that \$500.00 be approved from the District #8 budget for Eamonn Dudley-Chubbs, Cabot Education Centre, an elite wrestler and \$500.00 from the District #8 budget towards the purchase of an AED for the Cape North Community Centre/North Highlands Nordic Ski. Motion carried.

**District #4**

Councillor MacInnis questioned if anyone is attending the State of the Strait Conference on March 13, 2019. Registration is \$65 for the event and anyone interested in attending are authorized to do so.

**District #1**

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Department of TIR, requesting they look at the state of Walker Road in Little Narrows as it is the main road if the bridge in Little Narrows is out of commission. This is also a concern for EMO. Motion carried.**

**District #3**

Council met with Janet Knox and Brett MacDougall, NSHA, and expressed their frustrations and extended an invite to come to Council and to hold public meetings throughout the County.

**It was moved and seconded that Brett MacDougall, Eastern Zone Operations Executive Director, NSHA, be invited to come to Council. Motion carried.**

Deputy Warden Dauphinee tried everything at the March 7, 2019, meeting to get a date for a meeting but Mr. MacDougall would not commit.

**It was moved and seconded that NSHA be requested to hold town hall meetings throughout Victoria County to clear up the lack of communication. Motion carried.**

**WATER SUPPLY LENDING BY-LAW**

The Water Supply Lending By-Law was presented for first reading. The CAO was requested to review the *Municipal Government Act* to see if businesses can be included in the by-law.

**It was moved and seconded that first reading of the Water Supply Lending By-Law be approved pending clarification on whether businesses can be added to the by-law. Motion carried.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councillor MacNeil indicated that CEPI received two proposals for land protection resolutions. The first they didn't know anything about and did not support it.

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The seconded is on Climate Change protection. Councillor MacNeil received an email from Dave Harris, BDL Biosphere Reserve Association, which he will pass along. Any comments are to be provided by Friday, March 15, 2019.

**District #6**

**It was moved and seconded that an addition be made to the motion re Department of TIR, requesting that TIR retain Smokey Mountain Construction to locate larger armour stone on the Ingonish Barrier Beach. Motion carried.**

**NEXT MEETINGS**

The next meetings of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held on March 25, 2019, and on April 8 and 23, 2019.

**COMMUNITY HEALTH BOARD**

The Victoria County Community Health Board will meet in Wagmatcook from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. on March 25, 2019, and are inviting Council to attend.

Council will be meeting for their regular session later in the day and if they can are requested to attend, and if not send regrets.

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, it was moved to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.**

**Bruce Morrison, Warden**

**Leanne MacEachen, CAO**