

***VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL***

***April 23, 2019***

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Tuesday, April 23, 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.

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

**QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY**

Courtesy of Council was extended to Rodney MacDonald, CEO, Gaelic College, and Jeremy Martell, Communications Coordinator, Cape Breton Partnership/CBREN.

They were in attendance to promote the province-wide Quality of Life Survey. Mr. MacDonald introduced Colby MacLean, who is currently doing a work term with him.

Engage Nova Scotia is leading the Quality of Life initiative. The Quality of Life Survey will engage thousands of Nova Scotians. One in five residents will receive the survey beginning the week of April 29, 2019. These surveys will tell how residents feel they are doing across

eight domains: community vitality, living standards, healthy populations, democratic engagement, leisure and culture, time-use, the environment and education.

One in five Victoria County residents will receive the survey. It is a comprehensive survey that will take about ½ hour to complete.

A 90 second video was then shown depicting the Quality of Life initiative. Mr. MacDonald encouraged all who receive the survey to fill it out. He requested Council's assistance in informing their residents and encouraging them to complete the survey.

The survey is being conducted in the 10 regions throughout the province. A preliminary report will be received in the fall of 2019, with regional reports and a Quality of Life Action report in spring and fall of 2020.

Jeremy Martell indicated that along with Engage Nova Scotia, NSCC is leading this initiative and the Cape Breton Partnership/CBREN is part of the local leadership team.

Council requested that a copy of the information be made available for inclusion on our social media accounts and County website. This will further inform the residents of the survey and its importance.

Council indicated that they will do all they can to promote the importance of the Quality of Life Survey.

Warden Morrison extended appreciation to the gentlemen for their presentation and indicated that Council looked forward to receiving the regional results of this survey when available.

**CAPE BRETON PARTNERSHIP/CBREN UPDATE**

Courtesy of Council was extended to Carla Arsenault, President and CEO, Cape Breton Partnership (CBP), and Jeremy Martell, Communications Coordinator, CBP/Cape Breton Regional Enterprise Network (CBREN).

Ms. Arsenault extended regrets from Patrick Austin, EDO, who was unable to attend due to personal reasons.

The representatives were in attendance to update on the last quarter. Ms. Arsenault advised that the LOC met in March and the CBREN Board accepted the business plan for the coming year, which also outlines the staff action plan. The LOC will be looking at the Business Plan at their next meeting.

Ms. Arsenault outlined that their strategic priorities and initiatives vision is a thriving and prosperous Cape Breton/Unama'ki. Their mission is to transform Cape Breton/Unama'ki into the most creative and prosperous place on earth. This will be achieved through promoting, growing and connecting.

The CBREN staff members were outlined and a copy of the latest *Elevate* magazine was provided to each Council member. Mr. Arsenault updated on the Atlantic Immigration Pilot and the Local Immigration Partnership, the Connector Program and the Farmer's Daughter project.

Two new staff members have been hired – a Creative Economy Development Officer and a Business Planning Officer. These individuals will work throughout the coverage area.

ACOA and NSBI are working together with the CBP on exporting and inclusive innovation.

A new video has been designed and the CBP website is currently undergoing a re-design. A career fair will be held in October/November, 2019, and will most likely take place in Baddeck. Ms. Arsenault also updated on the Safety First program, Creative Island hubs and spaces, mash up labs.

She outlined that the CBP oversees to RENS – the CBREN and the newly created entity – CBRM REN. She indicated that the Town of Port Hawkesbury has requested to join the CBREN and this has been supported by the LOC and will be brought to Councils for consideration.

A RFP has been advertised for consultants to develop an Island-wide economic development strategy.

In Patrick Austin's absence, Ms. Arsenault updated on his activities. They include:

- Broadband initiative through Development Nova Scotia
- Business NOW program
- Victoria County Billeting Program
- Northern Cape Breton Adventure Development

- Pengbo Shuttle service
- Investment Contact for potential investors
- Strategic Planning
- Business Planning
- Business Roundtables
- Business Recognition
- ACOA Applications
- District Solutions

In the last quarter, Mr. Austin has completed 4 Business Plans and has 8 in progress. He has counselled and assisted 12 businesses in strategic planning. He is currently working on three major investment projects and has generated 12 leads to the Atlantic Immigration Pilot.

Jeremy Martell updated on the CBREN's social media accounts and provided the analytics as of March, 2019, for their Facebook Page, their CBREN newsletter and the CBP website, which has a section on CBREN. He provided contact information for all social media accounts.

Council expressed appreciation to Ms. Arsenault and Mr. Martell for the information provided. Patrick Austin wished to advise that he would be available to come to Council and provide more information at another Council meeting.

Warden Morrison expressed a thank you to Carla Arsenault and Jeremy Martell for the informative update.

### **RCMP UPDATE**

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Staff Sgt. Darren Waidson, Victoria County District, RCMP.

Staff Sgt. Waidson introduced Cpl. Gavin Neime, Supervisor of the Baddeck Detachment team. Cpl. Neime indicated that he has been with the RCMP for 14 years, all spent in Nova Scotia, and has been in Baddeck for almost a year. He lives on Harvey Drive, Baddeck, with his wife and two children, and they are very pleased to be in Baddeck and look forward to summer.

Staff Sgt. Waidson offered up the idea of monthly reporting to Council through a PDF format. He also indicated that he would update on the RCMP's involvement in the moose cull, outline the objectives and local priorities in the Annual Performance Plan and provide a quick update on human resources.

An update on the moose cull was provided. This initiative began in 2015 by Parks Canada to reduce the moose population to allow regrowth of the boreal forest. It was a five year project and the RCMP's presence has been reduced over the years. Staff Sgt. Waidson advised that his project is not going to continue. The extra policing costs associated with the moose cull are spread on a per capita basis and the cost recovery charge to the Municipality would be minimal as it is spread province-wide. Any further information Council may want, can be received by contacting Wanda Lee Fletcher and her contact information was provided.

The plan to communicate monthly via PDF to Council was outlined. He would provide the information to the CAO who in turn would forward the information to all Council.

The total charges for the month of March, 2019 were 135 charges under the provincial statutes, with 174 warnings issued. 589 vehicles were checked in both areas of the County in March, 2019. The reports can be further broken down for Baddeck and Ingonish individually.

The Warden's Report is a lengthy document that can also be shared with Council. Their Annual Performance Plan and the priority items from this report were reviewed.

Staff Sgt. Waidson indicated that Cpl. Neime is currently working with the Municipality's Seniors' Safety Officer and will serve as a member of the Seniors' Safety Committee.

The RCMP presence at schools was questioned. The current school liaison officer is on maternity leave and will be returning in December, 2019. In the meantime, Cpl. Neime has assigned members to cover schools.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee indicated that since the RCMP Detachment has been moved to Ingonish, the police presence has declined in the Ingonish Beach area and he requested increased presence to curb school bus violations and speeders.

Staff Sgt. Waidson updated on staff complements in both areas of the County. Constable Jeremy Tippert will be leaving the Ingonish Detachment and this will be a huge void in the area. He will be replaced by a member coming in from Winnipeg. Constable Sampson is moving to Cape Breton Traffic and will be replaced by a member from the Yukon. A member is coming to replace the second member who has left the Dingwall area. Baddeck's complement is fully staffed.

Training is being undertaken and there will be two drug recognition experts within the Victoria County District.

The break and enters that occur in the District #1 area in the spring were discussed and the possibility of installing a camera on the Barra Strait Bridge was questioned. Staff Sgt. Waidson indicated this will be discussed with the Department of TIR.

The absence of a Police Advisory Committee in Victoria County was brought up and this is something that will be revisited by Council.

After further discussion, Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Staff Sgt. Waidson and Cpl. Neime for the RCMP update.

**RECESS**

Warden Morrison announced that Council would recess for 10 minutes and celebrate the recent birthdays of Councillor MacDonald and CAO MacEachen.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 8, 2019**

The minutes of the April 8, 2019, session of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee that a correction was required on Page 3 to indicate that the Power Line Technician in the Ingonish area was Jeff Gillis, not Jess Gillis.

**It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of April 8, 2019, be approved with the noted correction. Motion carried.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

Brett MacDougall, Executive Director of Operations, Eastern Zone, NSHA, will be coming to Council on May 6, 2019.

A new Physician Recruiter was recently hired and is starting work this week. They will be requested to come to Council at a later date.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The CAO advised that bags and gloves will be arriving this week for community cleanups.

Letters and cheques for physical active living programs have been issued and provided to Councillors for organizations in their districts.

One proposal was received for the trail groomer and will be awarded when a couple of matters are decided.

Gwinn's Trucking was awarded the tender for Heavy Garbage Pickup in the northern area of the County.

Heavy garbage collection will be held in both areas of the County beginning the week of May 6, 2019.

### **TAXATION UPDATE**

Leanne MacEachen advised that the arrears balance continues to decrease. It stands at \$556,087, down from \$663,021 at the same time last year for a difference of \$106,934.

The current balance is behind. It stands at \$751,849, up from last year this time when it stood at \$642,858, for a difference of \$108,992 behind.

Reminder letters are being mailed this week and will hopefully have a positive effect on the current balance.

A Taxation Strategy update will be provided at the May 6, 2019, Council meeting.

### **DISTRICT CONCERNS**

#### **District #6**

Deputy Warden Dauphinee was questioned by a local ex-military resident regarding trapping requirements for the Department of Lands & Forestry.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Lands & Forestry questioning on the requirements for becoming a certified trapper for the Department. Motion carried.**

#### **District #7**

**It was moved and seconded that a load of Class 2 gravel be obtained and spread on the MacLeod Road from the District #7 budget. Motion carried.**

Contact is to be made with Stephen MacDonald, Area Manager, to see if they will do the work and bill the Municipality.

Councillor Budge advised that the snowplow tore the pavement at Neil's Harbour Point and now there is a hole that needs to be repaired. He called TIR but nothing has been done.

Councillor Budge indicated that he received an email from a resident with regard to access to the beach in Neil's Harbour. The beach gravel is shifting and it would be ideal if the bottom three steps were able to be turned up or made removable to prevent them from being destroyed.

Bernie Vassallo did this work in another area and he is to be contacted to see if he will repair the stairs.

**It was moved that a letter be forwarded to the Department of TIR with regard to the hole in the road at Neil's Harbour Point.**

This motion will be left open for additions to the Department of TIR letter.

**District #8**

Councillor MacDonald brought up the ongoing flooding and road deterioration on the Cabot Trail at the bottom of Cape North Hill. This has been an issue for many years and is neglected year after year and it is causing a major concern.

**The flooding of the bottom of Cape North Hill is to be included in the motion for the Department of TIR.**

Councillor MacDonald indicated that a resident from the Bay St. Lawrence area questioned on public washroom access in the area. Something is required before the tourist season.

The CAO advised that she is working on the washroom issue and it may be portables again this year. She has been given the name of an engineer who is working on options for public washrooms and she will contact him for information.

**District #4**

Councillor MacInnis questioned on the electrical cords hanging in the back of the Court House building.

He was advised that this was heat tape which is used to melt the ice in the winter time.

**The two bumps on the TCH 105 at Port Bevis are also to be included in the motion to the Department of TIR.**

**District #2**

Garbage is being dumped in the area of Centre Bridge, Big Baddeck.

**This matter is to be included in the motion to Department of TIR requesting “No Dumping” signage for that area.**

The Department of Lands and Forestry are to be contacted for an update on the status of the Uisge Ban Provincial Park for this coming season.

Councillor MacLeod indicated that a non-profit organization is asking if there is any funding or grants for solar energy. This matter will be investigated.

There will be a community cleanup in Big Baddeck this coming Sunday and gloves and bags will be required. They are on order and should be here later this week.

The topic of scholarships to Victoria County residents attending school outside Victoria County was discussed.

**It was moved and seconded that \$500.00 scholarships be made available to Victoria County residents attending high school outside Victoria County. Motion carried.**

**The request for patching in District #2 is to be included in the Department of TIR motion.**

**District #1**

**The replacement of signage that has been knocked down over the winter is to be added to the Department of TIR motion.**

**District #3**

The washroom located adjacent to the Victoria County Visitors Centre has begun and will be open for the summer season.

Warden Morrison indicated that Develop Nova Scotia will be hosting a rural broadband session at the AG Bell Museum on April 25, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.

There will be a Community Recognition ceremony for Dr. Roland Genge on May 10, 2019, in recognition of his 40 plus years of service.

A similar recognition was held some time ago for Dr. Chow and a scholarship was provided in Dr. Chow’s name for students from Baddeck Academy and Rankin School of the Narrows.

**It was moved and seconded that a County scholarship in Dr. Roland Genge's name be established for students from Baddeck Academy and Rankin School of the Narrows. Motion carried.**

**Repair to the culvert at 142 Twining Street, Baddeck, (both sides of street) is to be included in the letter to the Department of TIR.**

**The motion including all items for submission to the Department of TIR was seconded. Motion carried.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Kristi Farrier, Seniors' Safety Officer, has received a number of possible candidates to serve on the Seniors' Safety Advisory Committee. A decision will be made on the Committee makeup at a later meeting.

There will be a Seniors' Safety Conference held in Bridgewater on May 15-16, 2019. Expenses will be covered by the Department of Seniors.

**It was moved and seconded that Kristi Farrier, Senior's Safety Officer, and Councillor Fraser Patterson, be authorized to attend the Seniors' Safety Conference. Motion carried.**

**WATER SUPPLY UPGRADE LENDING PROGRAM BY-LAW**

A public hearing was held prior to Council on the *Water Supply Upgrade Lending Program By-Law*. No submissions were received from the public.

**It was moved and seconded that the second (final) reading of the *Water Supply Upgrade Lending Program By-Law* be approved. Motion carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was previously sent to Council.

**ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, it was moved to adjourn at 7:05 p.m.**

**Leanne MacEachen, CAO**

**Bruce Morrison, Warden**