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## Victoria County Municipal Council

June 25, 2019

A meeting of the Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck on Tuesday, June 25, 2019 with Warden Bruce Morrison in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil (excused following presentations to attend a graduation)

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

Staff:

Leanne MacEachen, CAO

Jocelyn Bethune, Recorder

Alix Redden, CFO

Dan Coffin, Tourism & Development Officer

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

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order. He introduced Dan Coffin, the municipality's new Tourism & Development Officer. Council welcomed him to Victoria County.

### **STRAIT AREA TRANSIT**

The Warden welcomed Jessie MacDonald, Director of Strait Area Transit and John Dowling, Chair of the SAT and Inverness County councillor.

They updated council on the process of getting a transit service up and running in the county. The service, expected to launch in July, will be offered as a pilot project for a 2- year period. Travel within and outside the county is available with a 24-hour advance booking. The service is available between 5:30 am and 6:30 pm each day. Ms. MacDonald said that since the service is

new and, in an effort, to encourage ridership, SAT staff will work to make sure that all efforts will be made to ensure that all calls will be accommodated.

At the moment, 2 drivers and 2 casuals have been hired for the Baddeck area and calls are out for drivers based out of Neil's Harbour. All the required paperwork has been filed with the NSUARB and once ready, there will be a mailout to all residents with a coupon so they can try their first ride free.

A motion must be passed by council to allow the service to extend beyond the boundaries of Victoria County, which will be passed this evening.

The Warden thanked the presenters and opened the floor for questions from the councillors. Councillor MacInnis asked if the service could be used to go from anywhere in the county to a hockey game in Sydney. Ms. MacDonald said yes – with 24-hour advance booking. Councillor MacNeil asked if the service could be used for events at the pub in Iona. Ms. MacDonald said yes – with 24 hours advance booking. Councillor MacDonald suggested sending the job description to the Resource Centre in Ingonish. Councillor Patterson said this service has been in the works for a long time, has been identified as an issue for residents and was happy to see it moving forward. What is required now is people in the seats.

The Warden said this 2-year pilot project is without cost to the county. After the 2 years, the service will be reviewed and if the ridership is there, the municipality will likely continue the service. If the ridership is not there, then obviously there wasn't a need like envisioned.

**It was moved and seconded that Councillors Perla Macleod, Fraser Patterson, Larry Dauphinee and Norman MacDonald be appointed to the new Victoria County Transit Board.**

**Motion carried.**

**It was moved and seconded that Victoria County Transit provides service outside the boundaries of Victoria County.**

**Motion carried.**

### **BADDECK WATERFRONT/VILLAGE OF BADDECK**

The Warden welcomed Sean Baldwin, chair of the Baddeck Wharf Committee to Council.

Mr. Baldwin said the Baddeck wharf is owned by the Village of Baddeck and is seen as a central piece of tourism infrastructure for the county. The committee was struck 15 months ago to explore options to making the wharf sustainable and seek funding. Develop Nova Scotia (formerly Waterfront Development Corp) has a new mandate to identify key communities around the province where waterfronts could be further developed for tourism. An engineering assessment of the wharf is required and will cost \$20,000. The committee was able to access \$17,400 in funding and requires \$2600 to complete the assessment.

Councillors asked about the impact around the county – Mr. Baldwin mentioned that providing dockage for super-yachts means that people stay in all areas of the county, visit our golf courses, rent cars, visit attractions and restaurants – rather than sailing/motoring on by.

**It was moved and seconded that council commit \$2600 to the Baddeck Waterfront committee to complete an engineering assessment of the Baddeck Community Wharf.**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the May 21, 2019 council session be approved.**

**Motion carried.**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **CAO Report:**

- Warden Morrison, Councillor MacNeil and CAO MacEachen recently toured the Martin Marietta facility in Auld's Cove following an invitation from the Mining Association of NS.
- The Pride rainbow flag was raised at the Courthouse in June; more than 30 people were in attendance. Hopes are for a larger ceremony with councillors & residents from the North attending next year.
- An adjustor visited the Maskell's Harbour site and will deliver a report to the CAO once complete.
- A letter of support is requested on behalf of One Ocean Expedition dealing with the challenges with DFO.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be prepared and sent to the federal Department of Fisheries regarding One Ocean.**

**Motion carried.**

- Our new Tourism & Development Officer began on June 17. Dan Coffin has been meeting with stakeholders as he settles in.
- Deputy Warden Dauphinee and a resident met with the CAO regarding water pooling near the Ingonish Water Utility building.
- CBREN met in May to consider adding the Town of Port Hawkesbury and Wagmatcook into the CBREN.

**It was moved and seconded that the Municipality of Victoria County council accept the Town of Port Hawkesbury and the First Nations community of Wagmatcook into the CBREN.**

**Motion carried**

### **RECESS**

Warden Morrison advised that council would recess for 10 minutes.

### **WASHROOM UPDATE:**

- CAO MacEachen met with the folks at the Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre regarding using their washroom facilities year-round. This would benefit the centre and provide washroom facilities for the public in the Bay St. Lawrence area. Some renovation is required. A tender has been issued.
- The new washrooms near the Visitor Information Centre in Baddeck are expected to be completed next week.

### **BUDGET UPDATE**

CFO Alix Redden reviewed the 2019-2020 budget with minor changes since the council last reviewed it. Since then, the year end has allowed for more fully finalized numbers and other outstanding numbers from outside agencies have been confirmed. A \$40,000 PCAP application for Little Narrows well was added. With this, there is a \$700 surplus for 2019-2020 and no changes to either the residential or commercial property rates.

**It was moved and seconded that council accept the 2019-2020 budget be approved as presented by the CFO Alix Redden.**

**Motion carried.**

CFO Redden presented a list of exempted charities for the 2019-2020 year.

**It was moved and seconded that council accept the 2019-2020 exempted charities list as presented by the CFO Alix Redden.**

**Motion carried.**

CFO Redden presented a list of Commercial to Residential adjustments for the 2019-2020 year.

**It was moved and seconded that council accept the 2019-2020 Commercial to Residential adjustments as presented by the CFO Alix Redden.**

**Motion carried.**

CFO Redden presented a list of Community Grant applications totalling \$207,000. There are 2 organizations with outstanding required information. They will be considered 'pending'. Discussion followed about the policy regarding community grants and applying a time limit. It was decided that rather than hold up the budget, requests from Northern Victoria Community Centre and Ross Ferry Fire Department will be left in abeyance until further information is received and the policy will be reviewed.

**It was moved and seconded that the Community Grant applications (with the exception of the request from Northern Victoria Community Centre and Ross Ferry Fire Department) be approved for the 2019-2020 year.**

**Motion passed.**

CFO Redden presented a budget for the Victoria County Water Utility for the 2019-2020 year.

**It was moved and seconded that the budget for the Victoria County Water Utility be approved for the 2019-2020 year.**

**Motion passed.**

### **TAXATION UPDATE**

CAO MacEachen provided the following:

Outstanding as of June 25, 2019 - \$1.0575 million

This time last year - \$1.14 million

We are \$113,000 to the good.

In arrears – we are below \$500K. Presently at \$476K.

Last year at this date we were at \$578K – today we are \$102K ahead.

Arrears collection is ahead of last year. Tax bills will be going out at the end of this week. Taxes are due on August 15. Accounts are considered overdue on August 16 and interest begins then.

Staff in the Tax Office are to be congratulated that their hard work is paying off.

### **NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

Councillor MacLeod distributed a discussion on Climate Change and declaring a Climate Change Emergency. Discussion followed; specifically, regarding the phrase: *'restructuring the physical economy at the necessary scale and speed'*. Councillor Patterson and Deputy Warden Dauphinee felt this handcuffed any existing or potential industry from setting up in the county, that the language could be open to interpretation. Councillor MacLeod said that passing this motion can provide local government with more tools to deal with climate change and that it is time to take action. The warden said the motion is a symbolic measure and recognition that it is a pressing issue. All councillors agreed it is an important and pressing issue.

**Motion:**

**The Municipality of Victoria County recognizes that:**

- (a) We are in a state of emergency that requires urgent action by all levels of government including local councils;**
- (b) Human induced climate change stands in the first rank of threats to humans, civilization and other species;**
- (c) It is still possible to restore a safe climate and prevent most of the anticipated long-term climate impacts – but only if societies across the world adopt an emergency mode of action that can enable the restructuring of the physical economy at the necessary scale and speed.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Policy Review** – A Tax and Water Collection policy has been circulated to councillors for comment.

**Bylaw Review** – none

**Correspondence** – done.

**DISTRICT CONCERNS**

**District #5 Councillor Fraser Patterson** congratulated the Victoria Standard on their recent awards. He invited all to the Canada Day celebrations at the Ross Ferry Marine Park and mentioned that Kristi Farrier, our Senior Safety Officer will be speaking at a Lunch & Learn at the Fire Hall next week.

**District #6 Councillor Larry Dauphinee** requested a letter be sent to TIR regarding recovering the pavement from the top of Smokey to the eastern boundary of CBH Park in Ingonish.

**It was moved and seconded that a letter be sent to TIR regarding the following items in Victoria County:**

- Recovering pavement from the top of Smokey to CBH Park in Ingonish**
- Erosion on Dingwall Road has reduced the road to a single lane. This impacts kids travelling by bus – as the bus will not pass this section and there is a business at the end of the road. When will it be addressed?**
- A request for No Litter signs on Dingwall Road.**
- Black Head Road – is in poor condition and needs attention**
- Replace a missing sign on Zion Road**
- No Parking signs across from the Irving on Highway 105**
- Large potholes at entrance of the hospital and at the end of MacDermid Street.**

**Motion Passed.**

**District #7 Councillor Wayne Budge** questioned the difference between last year's water utility numbers and this year. CAO MacEachen replied that this was a transition year, bringing previously contracted staff on as employees, so the numbers are not directly comparable, but would provide Councillor Budge with the numbers. He also expressed a concern about the Neil's Harbour Water Utility which is an open source water system. CAO MacEachen replied it is on DOE's radar and staff are actively looking at ways to upgrade.

**District #8 Councillor Norman MacDonald** said 40 bags of garbage were collected in the recent community clean up.

Councillor MacDonald also inquired as to when a meeting will be held with Victoria Co-op Fisheries regarding fish offal waste at our transfer station. The Warden said it was hoped a public works meeting could be set sometime after lobster season is complete.

Councillor MacDonald also mentioned the Cabot Day celebrations that were postponed on June 24, has been rescheduled to July 6 at the Cabot Provincial Park

**District #4 Councillor Merrill MacInnis** would like a street light transferred from 46102 Cabot Trail in Tarbot to 47396 Cabot Trail in Indian Brook. He also requests that an old streetlight at 36 Meadow Road, where a playground exists, be changed to an LED.

He discussed Plaster provincial Park and wondered why there has been nothing done there when TIR said it would be maintained once closed.

**It was moved a seconded that a letter be sent to Natural Resources requesting that maintenance be done at the former Plaster provincial park in Indian Brook.**

**Motion carried.**

The Baddeck Cat Rescue requests to speak to council at some time in the future.

**District #2 Councillor Perla MacLeod** requested a letter be sent to the Cape Breton Centre for Education to see that the bus driveway be repaired at Baddeck Academy. The section is at the top of the driveway, near the road where a water break occurred earlier this year.

Councillor MacLeod requested a street light at 140 North Branch Road. The owner has placed a red flag on the pole.

**It was moved and seconded that a streetlight be placed at 140 North Branch Road.**

**Motion carried.**

Water stations in Baddeck – can the CAO reach out to the Village of Baddeck to explore installing water stations and charging stations along the Water Street or Chebucto Street.

Lunenburg same issues with Housing and Air B&B's – ask that CAO reach out and exchange ideas with her.

Transit – needing drivers – can this be posted on the website?

**District #1 Councillor Paul MacNeil** In Councillors MacNeil's absence, Councillor MacLeod provided the following requests:

- Motion to recognize MP Mark Eyking on his retirement
- \$1200 from his district budget for the new water system at the Grandona Legion.

**It was moved and seconded that the Municipality thank MP Mark Eyking for his hard work on behalf of the constituents of Sydney-Victoria, as he retires after almost 20 years in Ottawa.**

**Motion carried.**

**It was moved and seconded that \$1200 from Councillor MacNeil's district budget be given to the Grandona Legion to assist with a new water system upgrade.**

**Motion carried.**

**District #3 Councillor Bruce Morrison** welcomed a new business to Baddeck - Misty MacDonald, has opened Cabot Discovery Tours and has moved into the area.

The Victoria Highlands Rink lease on the property is coming due in 2023. Would like to speak with someone at the rink to see what is required prior to 2023.

Canada Day Parade in Baddeck will take place at 1 pm on July 1. We will be looking at promoting reduction of single-use plastics.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Victoria County Municipal council will take place on Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at 5 pm.

### **ADJOURN**

**There being no further business, it was moved to adjourn at 7:15 pm.**

Leanne MacEachen, CAO

Bruce Morrison, Warden