



Victoria County Municipal Council
March 8th, 2021

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held in Council Chambers in Baddeck on March 8th, 2021 at 5:00pm with Warden Bruce Morrison in the Chair.

Present Were:

District #1- Paul MacNeil
District #2- Perla MacLeod
District #3- Bruce Morrison, Warden
District #4- Barbara Longva
District #5- Fraser Patterson
District #6- Larry Dauphinee, Deputy Warden
District #7- Jackie Organ
District #8- Norman MacDonald

Also present were:

Leanne MacEachen, CAO
Amy Liu, CFO
Dan Coffin, Tourism and Development Officer
Jocelyn Bethune, Communications Officer
Stephanie MacLeod, Recorder
Garrett Fazekas, IT

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Morrison indicated that Council held an In Camera Session on March 3rd, 2021 and asked for a motion to accept the recommendations that were made in that session.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee made the motion to accept those recommendations, seconded by Councillor Organ.

Motion Carried. Those recommendations are approved.

Warden Morrison recognized International Women's Day and contributions made by councillors and staff.



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Warden Morrison called the meeting to order and presented the agenda for approval.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Dauphinee and seconded by Councillor Organ that the agenda be approved.

Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 22nd, 2021, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil and seconded by Councillor Longva that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of February 22nd, 2021, be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

Councillor Patterson asked if CAO MacEachen contacted Professor Tom Urbaniak to invite him to council to discuss the article he wrote regarding the Cape Breton Assembly.

CAO MacEachen indicated that she was in contact with him and he responded that he is not initiating anything with the Cape Breton Assembly but he does have information on it. CAO MacEachen told Professor Urbaniak that he would be invited to a council session in the future to discuss.

Councillor Organ asked if it was looked into about Parks Canada sharing costs of fire protection. CAO MacEachen indicated that she is waiting to have a meeting with them where she will bring up the fire protection cost sharing discussion.

Councillor Longva asked about heritage building funding and if CAO wrote the letter and the CAO has but has not heard back.

Warden Morrison asked if CAO MacEachen received any response back regarding the speed reduction by the Irving.

CAO MacEachen indicated she has not yet heard anything back.



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CAO REPORT

Old Business

Police Advisory Committee applications closed Friday
Beverly's Hill light- getting quotes and delivery time
Graffiti Bylaw- contacting AMANS to see who has one
Requested from TIR to change their road name to Old Big Harbour Road, to match E911 database
Ice times at the rink have been booked for March Break.
New website media launch released last week
Battery returns - boxes are at both Depots for Battery drop offs.
DNR is looking in to the Rebar Issue in North Harbour

Councillor MacLeod asked if the communications officer could make a brochure about the battery drop off.

CAO responded that she would.

New Business

Senior Safety

Tech Connect - Follow-up program to HomeCare Tech Project - the next phase. A yearlong project, working getting Seniors Connected
Federal Centre Without Walls Funding is Over -Most successful portion was the Seniors Newsletter.
Looking for funding to keep this going.
Concerns raised over the Vaccine Rollout, and how seniors will get to vaccination sites
Had a meeting with Fred Gillis - Housing - requesting he come to a Housing meeting to discuss his work in this area.

Tourism

Community Development:

Waterfront Baddeck information Session:

- Approximately 100 people tuned into an informative update on activities hosted by Waterfront Baddeck last week. The details and information was very well received by all.



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- Upcoming Community Meeting in April for starting the process of developing a Baddeck and Area community vision with the Baddeck Waterfront as a key anchor in the plan.

Placemaking Project Update:

- Have a full project plan and timeline mapped out.
- Funding Applications being completed now to finalize project budget
- Next steps Community Engagement sessions to begin to be organized between April and June.

Trails Development Overview:

- Working with VCTF on current funding application needs in order to move project forward
- Working with other Staff (Lydia, Steff, Leanne) to prepare Trails project plan for presentation to Council at future meeting.

Tourism Talk sessions Scheduled –These are open house discussions and regional discussions on current challenges and opportunities in tourism

See Municipal Calendar on the website for dates and registration information for your area.

DCBA –

- F&E funding for this year is being worked on now with focus on clear guidelines and resources for what is required to hold your Festival or Event in 2021.
- Cabot Trail Winter market Readiness Assessment Project has been to ACOA and if approved will run in Winter 2021 / 2022.

BABTA –

- Working with BABTA regarding goals and objectives for the organization

North Highlands Nordic

- Working to assist in their new development and funding applications for the recent Groomer Building and the upcoming Chalet building.

MTB (Mountain Bike Tourism)

- Working with Shoreline DirtWorks (strategy consultant) to create a design of what a potential proposed Mountain Bike Pump track may look like in one of our Communities close to Cape North. The hopes are this will assist in gaining community or business interest in the project and potentially lead to a group or business willing to work to develop such a project in line with our recent Mountain Bike Strategy.

Rec/AL

Full Moon Hike - 48 Participants



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Working on Healthy Communities Proposal for Funding
March Break activities - Ice Times Booked, Pop Ups Encouraged throughout the County
Planning 2 more Youth Outdoor Workshops
Participating in a Field Leadership Training Workshop, as well as Mental Health First Aid
Looking for ideas for recognizing our Volunteers for this year
Working on Year end reports

Finance

30 day letters had an error in the Total box. The outstanding Year Balances are correct.
Tax Staff will be getting aggressive in their Tax Collection Strategy
Subdivision - Propose write off
Scotiabank meeting for cash handling procedures in New Haven

Public Works

Planning for the upcoming season
Steps to take away from the waste management review
Looking into solar options for the ReUse Centre, and any new projects
ReUse - getting quotes on a steel building for North, and power to Baddeck
Looking into options for bulk buying of water in Little Narrows- might look at a staff member there 2 days a week.

Councillor MacLeod asked about solar power options for the re-use centre in Baddeck and CAO MacEachen said that Public Works Director Robert Dauphinee was looking into that.

EDO

Had a meeting with the Department on Environment & Climate Change with regards to trail development for biking and hiking on:

- lands designated or otherwise considered protected
- designated bicycle trails
- designated OHV routes
- lands proposed or pending designation
- provincial Crown land
- Trail possibilities in protected lands, nature preserves, and wilderness areas;

Meeting with Parks Canada on Mountain Bike Action Plan and Parks plans;
Working with 4 potential mountain bike parks in Victoria County;
Restaurant Reviews for 3 restaurants;
Investment Attraction on 2 potential sites;
Working with 8 businesses on spring opening plans;
Cape Smokey Holding business planning and advising & provincial government navigation



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OTHER

Next stage of budget - refining

Plan to have more consultation with Council on breaking down Strategic Priorities - expect 2 hours each Council

Deputy Warden Dauphinee asked if the CAO could get the contact information for Stanley Simms in relation to trails.

CAO MacEachen indicated we will be going out to all the trail groups. Ideally there will only be one trails group.

Warden Morrison asked for a motion to accept the Budget Meeting minutes and Waste Management Meeting minutes.

Councillor MacNeil made the motion to accept the Budget 2021 minutes. Seconded by Councillor MacLeod.

Motion Carried.

Councillor Longva made the motion to accept the Waste Management minutes. Seconded by Councillor MacDonald.

Motion Carried.

TAXATION UPDATE

Total Outstanding: \$1,078,262.49 which is \$158,434.93 lower than last year's \$1,236,697.42.

Current Total Outstanding: \$543,539.03 which is \$201,799.91 lower than last year's \$745,338.94.

Arrears: \$534,723.46 which is \$43,364.98 higher than last year's \$491,358.48.

Since last council session, we have collected \$ 126,780.71.

Sent out 188 Preliminary Notice letters for Tax Sale last week. More Preliminary Notice letters will be sent out this week.

There are currently 8 properties that are going on the tax sale list for March 23, 2021.

Identified some uncollectable accounts and preparing the list for Council to write off.

Two new applications received for tax installment.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONCERNS

The councillors were provided an updated list from Steve MacDonald in relation to ongoing TIR concerns. Each councillor expressed appreciation for the list and thanked Mr. MacDonald for his efforts



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and communication with them and as such, many councillors had their concerns addressed and had nothing new to report for TIR concerns.

District 1

Nothing new to report.

District 2

Nothing new to report.

District 3

Nothing new to report.

District 4

Councillor Longva addressed the following concerns:

New Campbellton Road between the intersection of Stewart Road and Kelly's Cove is badly eroded and needs a guardrail. Residents say the road needs a heavier base, any of the pothole repairs don't last.

New Campbellton Road, area known as Bob's Pond has water on both sides of the road, erosion problem, possibly needs the bridge and road raised.

Big Harbour Road needs to be repaved, has only had patches on it for years.

District 5

Councillor Patterson requested that the Kempt Head Road on the Southside of Boularderie be added to the 5 year highway improvement plan.

District 6

Nothing new to report.

District 7

Councilor Organ had one clarification to made and that she will contact Steve.



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District 8

Councillor MacDonald requested an update on the plan for upgrades to Cape North and Dingwall roads.

Councillor MacDonald made a motion to have a letter written to Minister Hines of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and inquire as to why the area was not included in the 5 year Highway Improvement Plan.

Councillor MacDonald made the motion to write a letter to Minister Hines regarding the exclusion from the 5 year plan. Seconded by Deputy Warden Dauphinee.

Motion Carried.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District 1

Councillor MacNeil requested a \$1000.00 be taken from district budget to the NS Highland Village to help start a Gaelic youth group.

Councillor MacNeil made a motion for a cheque of \$1000.00 be made to NS Highland Village from district 1 budget. Seconded by Deputy Warden Dauphinee.

Motion Carried.

Councillor MacNeil commented again that travelling through the district there is a lot of garbage and it is disgraceful and asked if there has been contact with ACAP about what possible funding for students to help pick up garbage along the roadside.

CAO responded that she sent an email requesting a meeting.

District 2

Councillor MacLeod requested a letter be sent to Steve Macdonald requesting an update on the latest speed reduction request made in December 2020 at the Irving/Tim's area of the highway outside of Baddeck.

Councillor MacLeod made a motion to write a letter to Steve MacDonald. Seconded by Councillor MacNeil.

Motion Carried.



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Councillor MacLeod requested a letter be sent to the Minister of Health and Wellness requesting Covid 19 vaccination clinics be set up in Victoria County so residents don't have to travel far distances to receive their vaccine.

Councillor MacLeod made a motion to write a letter to the Minister of Health and Wellness in regards to vaccine clinics. Seconded by Deputy Warden.

Motion Carried.

District 4

Councillor Longva asked if there could be some Placemaking in District 4. Some residents would like to get work done to the area surrounding the Indian Brook fire hall for an outdoor space.

CAO MacEachen indicated that Dan Coffin was working on it.

Councillor Longva expressed concern about seniors over 80 having to travel to CBU for immunizations. There are going to be immunizations at Alderwood. Councillor Longva questioned why seniors couldn't set up appointments there or in Indian Brook for those residents North of Smokey so they don't have to travel to Sydney for appointments.

Councillor Longva asked for a graveyard update.

CAO MacEachen indicated she was currently looking into it.

Councillor Longva expressed that it was brought to her attention that people are spray painting and littering at Gloosecap Cave and asked if there could be a sign placed there asking people to respect the area.

Warden Morrison commented that this has been brought up before and suggested that it is a difficult thing to monitor.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee commented that a bylaw needs to be created to help with this issue.

Councillor MacNeil said that if we notify First Nations it would get looked at right away.

Warden said we will follow up with First Nations.

Councillor Longva made a motion for a cheque of \$500.00 be made to South Haven Community Club from district 4 budget. Seconded by Councillor MacLeod.

Motion Carried.

District 5



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Councillor Patterson commented that Paul Koziel is going to address the concerns regarding the Dalem Lake trails.

Councillor Patterson also commented that the CAO and dog catcher are currently working on a problem with a dog.

Councillor Patterson has FCM Meetings this week and will report about them at next council.

District 6

Deputy Warden Dauphinee asked CAO MacEachen to look into a bylaw for advertising on poles. It has been an issue in District 6, a lot of poles are littered with advertising.

District 7

Nothing new to report.

District 8

Councillor MacDonald requested an update from Develop Nova Scotia in regards to why the high speed fibre op cable wasn't included on the South Ridge Road where our Municipal Transfer is located.

CAO MacEachen indicated that Develop NS has contacted her back and they are planning a meeting for Develop NS updates.

Councillor MacDonald requested \$500.00 from district budget North Highland Nordic for assistance with road signage.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Deputy Warden Dauphinee made mention of the Housing Committee meeting that took place earlier in the day and made a motion to approve the recommendations that came out of that meeting

Deputy Warden Dauphinee made a motion to approve the recommendations. Seconded by Councillor Organ.

Motion Carried.

Councilor MacLeod mentioned the Victoria County Welcome Group and requested that any volunteers in the north to please contact her. Councillor MacLeod also requested that if you know of anybody who is new in the county to let her know who they are and she will get in touch with them.

CORRESPONDENCE

CAO MacEachen received correspondence from Clean Ocean Action Committee; they are looking for support of a renewal to Moratorium on oil and gas exploration on George's Bank.



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Warden Morrison responded that council is officially accepting this correspondence.

Warden Morrison presented the Community Spirit Plaque that was sent to the municipality from the Lieutenant Governor LeBlanc. He thanked Honourable LeBlanc and requested a letter of thanks be sent to his office.

Warden Morrison also mentioned the meeting with the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Brendan McGuire and thanked him for reaching out to our municipality and that it was a beneficial meeting.

Councillor MacDonald invited council and staff to the North Highland Nordic centre on March 15th, 2021.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:05pm. Next council session is March 22nd, 2021.

Bruce Morrison, Warden
Leanne MacEachen, CAO