



Victoria County Municipal Council
April 19th, 2021

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held via Zoom on April 19th, 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
- Jocelyn Bethune, Communications Officer
- Stephanie MacLeod, Recorder
- Garrett Fazekas, IT

Warden Morrison began by acknowledging that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.



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CALL TO ORDER

Warden Morrison called the meeting to order and presented the agenda for approval with the addition of an FCM report from Councillor Patterson. Warden Morrison also added the recommendations from the Budget meeting held earlier today.

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

Motion Carried.

The Council of the Municipality of the County of Victoria took a moment of silence to honor and remember the victims of the Portapique mass shooting.

Warden Morrison called for a motion to accept the recommendations made at budget.

It was moved by Councillor MacLeod and seconded by Councillor MacNeil that Council accepts the recommendations made at the Budget meeting held earlier today.

Motion Carried.

CEPI PRESENTATION and PITU'PAQ

Stan Johnson, Ron MacNeil and Paul Schwartz gave an overview on what CEPI and Pitu'paq is and what they do and thanked Council for their past support and looked forward to continued support and partnership.

The presentations were well received and the Councillors thanked the presenters for taking the time to come to Council. Each Councillor thanked the presenters and thought that the presentation was very informative.

The Councillors look forward to working with CEPI and Pitu'paq on future events and vice versa.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 7th, 2021, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Organ and seconded by Councillor Longva that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of April 7th, 2021, be approved as presented.

Motion carried.



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CAO REPORT

Old Business

Waiting on dates from Steve MacDonald for a quarterly meeting with TIR.

Community Clean Up - Thursday morning

Plan is to have ReUse Centre ready to go April 24, 2021. Encouraging residents to start thinking about dropping off items

Vaccines are now in Victoria County, in the North and South. Transit can be used to get to your shot.

Department of Environment will be doing maintenance on the North River Falls Trail.

Letter that Dingwall Road will be maintained, and added to the Capital Plan.

Deputy Warden any response back from Minister of Environment. Can we call them instead. CAO will call directly.

Warden mentioned that we received a letter from Irving and we need clarification on whether he wants to meet with Council or the community. Warden wants him to attend a council session and Council agreed.

New Business

Senior Safety

Vaccine rollout - making transit arrangements.

Helping with BOLD Drop In for Seniors - Tues/Thurs 9-12.

Trying to make headway with Housing for Seniors - looking for a Contact.

Seniors Newsletter Mail-out going out next week.

Tourism

Trails Meetings.

Investigating a Project Manager position for Trails.

Placemaking - Ongoing Meetings, there will be engagement sessions in the fall.

Tourism - Ongoing meetings, working on the strategy update.

Ongoing website training.



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Concern with B and B's - Can council send a letter to government - they don't fit into a lot of the help programs.

Send letter to the province so these organizations can get some Covid relief provincial assistance.

See if there are any programs available for them.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Dauphinee and seconded by Councillor MacDonald to write a letter of support for B&B's and to inquire to the province about funding to assist B&B's.

Motion carried.

Rec/AL

Website training.

Working with Tara MacDonald - Outreach MHA - will be sponsoring some CaperBased Youth Workshops on Mental Health.

MH 1st Aid - looking to expand areas around the County - message will go out soon.

Volunteer awards have been ordered - waiting to arrive.

Placemaking - attending a virtual conference in June.

Wilderness workshop is scheduled for May 1, in Tarbot.

A guided Hike is being planned for May.

Mobi-Mats will be delivered/picked up by Parks Canada very soon.

Finance

Home Energy Pace program.

Budget day today.

Audit scheduled for May.

Visited North sites - looking for ways to make operations more efficient.

Public Works

Water bills went out last week.

Water rate study is progressing.



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Heavy garbage - starting May 31, 2 weeks.

Test sites are being explored for the North potential site.

Compiling an RFP for a Building assessment.

Meeting with Martin in Ingonish on WWTP potential sites.

Finalizing the Park water agreement.

EDO

Working with Investors, summer start-ups, expansion plans.

Mountain Bike (MTB) plans -1st plan going to ACOA this week, 2 next week.

Internet - Washabuck is still not on the list. Working with Develop NS.

4 contacts last week about families/people wanting to move home, start businesses.

Other

Inter-municipal agreement with EDPC - need to rescind and make a motion to accept the new one.

CAO asked for a motion to rescind the original EDPC agreement of 2018 and accept the new one effective 2021.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Dauphinee and seconded by Councillor Longva to rescind the original EDPC agreement of 2018 and accept the new one effective 2021.

Motion carried.

Working on Trails initiatives.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee asked for an update on the hiring of a new Economic Development Officer.

CAO MacEachen indicated that the ad doesn't close until the end of this week so interviews won't be set up until after that closes.



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TAXATION UPDATE

Total outstanding is \$818,226.15 which is \$244,956.39 lower than last year's \$1,063,182.54.

Current outstanding is \$394,216.71 which is \$226,615.31 lower than last year's \$620,832.02.

Arrears outstanding are \$424,009.44 which is \$19,341.08 lower than last year's \$442,350.52.

We collected \$24,997.76 tax from April 7, 2021 (last council meeting) to today.

Councillor MacLeod asked if she could attend FemPower, a women empowerment event being held in Baddeck. The invitation was also extended to Councillor's Longva and Organ, if they had interest in attending.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil and seconded by Deputy Warden Dauphinee for permission for Councillor's MacLeod, Longva and Organ to attend the FemPower event if they so choose.

Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE AND RENEWAL

District 1

Councillor MacNeil has been working with Steve MacDonald and Mark Green with road issues and thanked them for repairing a sink hole on John Neil George Road.

District 2

Councillor MacLeod Big Baddeck Road is on the list for the RIM project since last fall and any issues that come up are reported to the supervisor.

District 3

Warden Morrison acknowledged the repairs that have been done to the Shore Road after the flooding.

District 4

Councillor Longva said she has been reporting issues to Steve but she added that there is major flooding on the Englishtown Road close to the ferry.



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District 5

Councillor Patterson said that there are some washouts and some of the gravel roads are in need of grading and he has emailed Steve regarding these issues.

District 6

Deputy Warden Dauphinee wanted to thank the Department of Transportation for repairing all the washouts on Smokey and around Ingonish.

District 7

Councillor Organ addressed TIR concerns with Steve MacDonald and she will continue to do so unless anything major that comes up, she will address it with Council.

District 8

Councillor MacDonald expressed that the Dingwall Road down to the Government Wharf is in bad need of grading.

CAO MacEachen asked the Councillor if he contact Steve MacDonald regarding this and Councillor MacDonald said that he received word on it today from Steve but wanted it brought up again as this is an ongoing issue as well as the issue with the area near the Coop store in St. Margaret's Village.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District 1

Councillor MacNeil had questions around the Iona Volunteer Fire Department being asked to submit bank statements for year-end financials.

CAO MacEachen responded that what we ask for their list of members and their financial statements from the previous year. Over the last few years, there have been some fire departments experiencing some problems. We as a municipality along with our Fire Services Coordinator thought it would be a good idea to have to have two CPA's (CAO and CFO) look at the bank statements, this was not done for any other reason than to look at the numbers.

There has been some push back with this and there is currently no requirement to do this but it probably will in the near future.



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It was moved by Councillor MacNeil and seconded by Councillor Organ to send a letter and a certificate from the County to Mary MacLeod to celebrate her 50 years of service as Post Master at the Iona Post Office.

Motion carried.

District 2

Councillor MacLeod as if the Circular Cities application was completed and CAO MacEachen indicated that it is currently being worked on and will be completed soon.

Councillor MacLeod asked the CAO if NS Power got back to her after Council requested they come to Council to provide various updates.

CAO MacEachen said that we didn't hear back but she would reach out again.

Councillor MacLeod said that the solar light for Beverly's Hill Road has arrived and should be installed soon.

Councillor MacLeod requested a meeting be set up with BABTA to discuss washrooms.

District 3

Warden Morrison indicated that his district community clean-up day will be May 8th at 10am.

District 4

Councillor Longva thanked CAO MacEachen and Council for the support letter for North River Trails.

Councillor Longva confirmed that heavy garbage pickup is May 31st, 2021.

District 5

Councillor Patterson commented that Bell is still making good progress with setting people up with fibre op.

District 6

Deputy Warden Dauphinee asked what the next steps for the Franey Estates Road is and if the CAO could email the gentlemen they had been talking to before and start to progress forward with this.

Deputy Warden also requested another meeting with Council in regards to the discussions that the Housing Committee had prior.

Warden Morrison said that arrangements will be made to set up that meeting.

District 7



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Councillor Organ addressed the illegal dumping at the Aliant building at the top of Ocean View Drive in Neil's Harbour.

It was moved by Councillor Organ and seconded by Councillor MacNeil to write a letter to Aliant in regards to illegal dumping on their property.

Motion carried.

Councillor Organ asked the CAO to find out who owns the land at White Point Road where pulp was being cut. There was lots of debris and garbage left over.

CAO MacEachen requested Councillor Organ to send her the civic address of the lot next to it and she will look into it.

District 8

Councillor MacDonald had no concerns to report.

FCM REPORT

Councillor Patterson provided a brief overview on his latest meetings with the FCM. The meeting was held with Minister Monsef who is the Minister of Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development. Some of the topics covered at this meeting included small communities, operational funding and capital investments.

BYLAW/POLICY REVIEW

Three new bylaws were presented for first reading; they were the Local Improvement Bylaw, Community Standards Bylaw and Solid Waste Bylaw.

Community Standards:

Councillor Patterson had concerns with the complaints and enforcement process and CAO indicated that she would provide further clarification on enforcement on this for the next reading.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee commented that the noise bylaw wasn't clear and asked for fireworks to be covered in this as well and for the addition of graffiti.

CAO MacEachen indicated that fireworks could be added and that the graffiti section of the bylaw was purposely vague so it could cover many things. CAO MacEachen also indicated that the times are covered but if the Deputy Warden wanted them changed, he could add his comments and they would be reviewed in the second reading.

Councillor Longva commented that she had a resident happy with



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Councillor Patterson and Councillor Longva both brought up agricultural properties and the potential for complaints regarding these properties so it may be something to consider for future policies and/or bylaws.

Warden Morrison said these concerns could be captured in the planning standards that are coming out next year.

CAO requested a Zoom session with Councillors to discuss bylaws, the ones we have, the ones we don't have and the ones that Council could possibly want.

Solid Waste:

Councillor Patterson had questions and concerns raised over the number of bags allowed per week. Currently it is 5 and it is potentially going down to 4.

CAO MacEachen commented that we want to keep with industry norms but she would look further into this issue.

After reviewing the Community Standards Bylaw and the Solid Waste Bylaw it was requested by Councillor Patterson to discuss the Local Improvement Bylaw at another meeting to provide ample time to review.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil and seconded by Councillor Patterson to discuss the Local Improvement Bylaw at another meeting.

Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor MacLeod and seconded by Councillor Patterson to approve the first reading of the Community Standards Bylaw and the Solid Waste Bylaw.

Motion carried.

ADJOURN

The Municipality of the County of Victoria County council session was adjourned at 6:45pm.