



Victoria County Municipal Council
June 28th, 2021

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held via Zoom on June 28th, 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 #7- Jackie Organ

District #8- Norman MacDonald

Absent:

District #6- Larry Dauphinee, Deputy Warden

Also present were:

Leanne MacEachen, CAO

Amy Liu, CFO

Stephanie MacLeod, Recorder

Dan Coffin, Tourism Officer

Garrett Fazekas, IT



Victoria County Municipal Council
June 28th, 2021

Warden Morrison welcomed everyone and acknowledged that this meeting is being held in Unama'ki, One of seven traditional districts of Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaw People.

Warden Morrison initiated a moment of silence to acknowledge the ongoing discoveries of remains at various residential school locations.

CALL TO ORDER

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

Councillor Patterson asked for an FCM discussion under new business be added to the agenda.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil and seconded by Councillor Organ that the agenda be approved with the addition of the FCM discussion.

Motion Carried.

Councillor MacNeil said the Municipality of the County of Victoria recognizes the tragic history of residential schools in Canada. Regarding July 1st, Councillor MacNeil made a motion, out of respect for Indigenous communities who are grieving, the Municipality of the County of Victoria will observe this July 1st, a “Day of Reflection”. Seconded by Councillor MacLeod.

Motion Carried.

Councillor MacNeil also asked council, to show respect to Indigenous People, and wear orange on that July 1st.

Warden Morrison mentioned the absence of Deputy Warden Dauphinee due to a medical reason.



Victoria County Municipal Council
June 28th, 2021

DEMOLITION RECOMMENDATIONS PRESENTATION – JONATHAN MARTIN AND SEAN DONOVAN

Mr. Martin began with the property at 37921 Ingonish Beach, Cabot Trail, down at the shoreline. Property owner is Richard Doucette, who was present for the presentation.

Mr. Martin and Mr. Donovan with Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC) recommended a 30 day demolition order.

Mr. Doucette stated that he has engaged with a contractor and the contractor gave Mr. Doucette a quote for the work and a start date for the 5th of July to start the work on the building. Prior to Council, the Councillors were sent the quotes and correspondence sent in by Mr. Doucette.

Mr. Doucette asked Council to allow him to repair the building. He requested Council give him 60 days to get the work completed.

Mr. Donovan said that building permits are required with the proper documentation that the contractor has given the property owner.

Mr. Donovan said that if the order is extended to 60 days, then it needs to be made a priority to have the property closed and secured within 30 days.

Warden Morrison stated that if Council agrees to increase the demolition order to 60 days, the building has to be secured and safe at 30 days to the satisfaction by the building inspector and engineer.

Warden Morrison warned Mr. Doucette that if the work is not complete after 60 days, the building will be demolished, There will be no more extensions.

Mr. Donovan said if Council orders a 60 day order it will be EDPC who will be ensuring it is safe and secure at the 30 days and the owner needs to allow us to inspect the property at that time.

This was agreeable to Council and Mr. Doucette.

It was moved by Councillor Longva and seconded by Councillor Organ that the property at 37921 Ingonish Beach, Cabot Trail be given an extension of a 60 day demolition order with no further extensions

Motion Carried.

The second property for a demolition recommendation is located at the corner of highway 105 and John Hughie Lane, there is no civic address. The owners were notified and Mr. Martin was speaking to the owner and his daughter prior to the meeting but the owner was not present.

The home appears abandoned and Mr. Martin is recommending a 30 day demolition order be given.

Mr. Martin recommended a 30 day demolition order. The owners want to complete the work themselves and they have family in the area that they are trying to get to board up the house.



Victoria County Municipal Council
June 28th, 2021

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil and seconded by Councillor Longva that the property at the corner of highway 105 and John Hughie Lane be given a 30 day demolition order.

Motion Carried.

CAPE BRETON REGULATORY MODERNIZATION PILOT UPDATE - EMILY POND

Ms. Pond gave updates on the bylaw modernization project, special events task force, regional land use planning standards, assessing and measuring municipal regulatory proposals and let Council know that they are in the final stages of developing a checklist for the purpose of making regulations to ensure the full impact of the municipality's decisions are known, quantified and shared publicly.

Councillor MacNeil asked about the bylaw process and if there is training programs for bylaws.

CAO MacEachen said we are doing a training course on July 13th with our Municipal Advisor, so please contact her if you want to get signed up.

Councillor Patterson commented on the land use planning and how changes affect the public. Ms. Pond said there will be ample public consultation for this minimum standards process.

Councillor MacLeod asked about the checklist and when it will be available.

Ms. Pond said it is ready now, just working out the kinks. It will be out very shortly. CAO MacEachen has the draft and Councillors can request to see it.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June 14th, 2021, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

Councillor Longva made a clarification to the Minutes of June 14, 2021 under district concerns. The community garden and playground located at 36 Meadow Road has a piece of land next to it that is 1/8 of an acre. The community garden group would like to acquire this small piece of land to use as part of the garden. One of the members of that group expressed an interest to buy it and wondered what the next step would be in starting that process.

It was moved by Councillor MacLeod and seconded by Councillor MacDonald that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of June 14th, 2021, be approved with the above noted correction.

Motion carried.

Warden Morrison called for a 10 minute recess and to reconvene at 6:24pm.



Victoria County Municipal Council
June 28th, 2021

CAO REPORT

Old Business

Graduation funds have been sent to 3 schools

Sent info to Councillor Longva on new Provincial funding for operators that didn't qualify in the past

Zero Waste Report is now available on our website

Develop NS Internet - sent a note to Develop Nova Scotia staff for an update on Capstick/Meat Cove - waiting for response. Councillor MacNeil said that his area has not received any confirmation yet either and he sent an email to Develop NS regarding that.

New Business

Senior Safety

Happy to hear that Covid testing busses may be converted to vaccine busses.

Seniors Drop In will resume at BOLD

Aging Well Coalition has adjourned for the summer

Coffee with a Cop- 10 attendees. It was a good session.

CyberSeniors program has renewed interest.

Gathering SSP Resources to create a database to get on our website.

Quarterly meeting was on June 22 to discuss newsletter. There will only one more paper newsletter. That will be out in September. For those seniors still wanting to receive a paper copy should contact Cassandra to get on the distribution list.

Tourism

Placemaking - 5 engagement sessions set up over the summer

Tourism operator visits happening

Trail experience visits are happening. Doing some work on the culverts, etc., to Bridge

Culverts, groundwork.

Landowner agreements.

Terms of Reference with ACOA.

Destination CB will be announcing Festival Funding grants soon.



Victoria County Municipal Council
June 28th, 2021

Rec/AL

Mobi-Mats are delivered and installed!

Step Challenge happening in July. Pre-launch this week. We are looking for participation.

Trail development ongoing - Trail Grant policy is being developed.

Placemaking - Visiting various sites for Rec ideas at each of them.

Hikes - will be scheduling some, along with Youth Programming.

Mental Health 1st Aid will resume after fishing season.

Finance

Year end reports being worked on.

Sick leave valuation is being prepared.

Tax bills went out this week.

Looking to set up an office in Ingonish, and hire a part time collector for down there.

Public Works

WTP upgrades ongoing.

Meter reads will be happening again.

Lead Sampling Program - info will be on our website.

RFQ Courthouse closed on Thursday and we received 5 applications.

Other

Washroom EOI closed. Will be scoring, to take next steps.

Flew a First Nations flag for National Indigenous People Day on June 21.



Victoria County Municipal Council
June 28th, 2021

Alderwood amended their by-laws to allow County financial staff to be in attendance for audit committee meetings. Alderwood needs Municipal Council to approve the by-law based on the Homes for Special Care Act.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson and seconded by Councillor Longva to approve the amendments to the Alderwood Corporation By-Laws.

Motion carried.

CAO MacEachen confirmed the due date for taxes is September 15, 2021.

Councillor MacNeil asked about the Placemaking funding application and the CAO said we were not approved but will still move ahead with it in some areas and we will not be as broad and be more specific in relation to certain areas when we re-apply.

Councillor MacLeod asked if we could invite Robert Bernard to present to Council to see how we can better our approach with our Mi'kma'ki neighbours.

Warden Morrison asked when the launch date for the step challenge is and CAO MacEachen said it is July 1st and to check out the website for more details.

Warden Morrison asked if the lead sampling program is open to all residents and CAO said yes, open to all but only a certain amount will be accepted.

Councillor Patterson wanted to make a correction to his original motion from last council session on June 14, 2021 regarding the FCM committees.

It was moved by Councillor Longva and seconded by Councillor MacDonald to approve that if an individual is selected to serve on a committee, their Municipal Council is prepared to incur the costs of attending meetings of the FCM Board of Directors and/or committees.

Motion carried.

Councillor Patterson also mentioned that the FCM is looking for testimonials for the use of gas tax and said there is also some information on youth councils.



Victoria County Municipal Council
June 28th, 2021

TAXATION UPDATE

Total outstanding is \$630,321.75 which is \$273,822.43 lower than last year's \$904,144.18.

Current outstanding is \$278,933.04 which is \$215,456.65 lower than last year's \$494,389.69.

Arrears outstanding are \$351,388.71 which is \$58,365.78 lower than last year's \$409,754.49.

If we sold off all the properties on the tax sale it would be about \$224,000.00.

Notes:

1. We collected \$28,411.29 in tax from June 14, 2021 (last council meeting) to today.
2. New tax bills will be sent out this week.
3. A tender tax sale will be on July 20th.
4. A public auction tax sale will be on October 19th.

Councillor MacDonald asked about redeemable properties and wanted to clarify if the bidder gets their money back and CAO MacEachen stated that; redeemable means the money is due by the new owner; the old owner has 6 months to pay those taxes. If the old owner pays within those 6 months, the new purchaser gets their money back. The owners have to pay all of the outstanding balance if they want to keep the property.

Councillor Patterson thanked CAO and tax staff for their work with the tax sale.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE AND RENEWAL

District 1

Councillor MacNeil said that he was dealing with Steve MacDonald on the following issues:

- Gypsum Outcrop Issue
- Road in front of Post Office
- Mowing and Brush cutting need badly

Councillor MacNeil thanked TAT for the work that is continued to be done on the dirt roads

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil and seconded by Councillor Organ to send a letter to the Minister of the Department of Transportation and Active Transit (TAT) Minister to request a refund of 2020 pass money to individuals that paid for a pass and tolls were dropped because of Covid and now fares have been dropped.

Motion Carried.



Victoria County Municipal Council
June 28th, 2021

District 2

Councillor MacLeod reported the following issues to Steve with TIR:

- Some boards were loose on the bridge in Big Baddeck, by Peter's Brook, TIR is working on it.
- 2926/2930 Cabot Trail, damage in the entrance of the property last year, contractor is aware, looking for date to be fixed.
- Beverly's Hill signage is being ordered.
- Trimming is need for District 2. The ditches are full in Big Baddeck loop and on the gravel roads.

District 3

Warden Morrison had a request for bicycling signs.

It was moved by Warden Morrison and seconded by Councillor MacLeod to contact the Department of Transportation and Active Transit (TAT) to request 12 cycling signs for Victoria County.

Motion carried.

District 4

Councillor Longva mentioned that the stop sign at the second exit to Baddeck is grown in and not visible and also mentioned that the sides of roads and ditches need to be cut.

Councillor Longva said there is loose gravel on the road on the turn by Gaelic College.

District 5

Councillor Patterson had nothing new to report.

District 7

Councillor Organ Councillor Organ had a call about a close call with a car driving too fast and almost hit a little boy on the Point Road in North Ingonish. The speed limit is 50 and Councillor Organ, along with others think that it is too fast. That stretch of road is quite busy especially during the summer months, there are people walking, tourists going to their cottages and cars are usually parked on the water side of the road because of the beach. Councillor Organ requested that the speed limit be assessed and/or some signage saying "Caution Pedestrians".

District 8

Councillor MacDonald has been in contact with Nelson Dixon in regard with TAT with ongoing concerns.



Victoria County Municipal Council
June 28th, 2021

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District 1

Councillor MacNeil wished big congratulations to the 2021 Rankin School of the Narrows Graduating Class and to all Graduates in Victoria County. It has been a very different journey for them the past two years and they came through it by hard work willing to adapt to all situations. Councillor MacNeil wished them all well with their future endeavors.

Councillor MacNeil requested to meet with the CAO and Tourism Director concerning issues regarding tourism in the District whenever time is available.

CAO said she will set up a meeting.

District 2

Councillor MacLeod had an email from FCM regarding the Canada we want in 2050. They are talking about infrastructure and are asking for input. Councillor MacLeod asked CAO MacEachen if she can send her input to her or should she send it herself. CAO MacEachen indicated that we are having a staff meeting on that tomorrow and already had a meeting with ACOA and heard that this funding is happening, so CAO MacEachen said to please send her any input and suggestions.

Councillor MacLeod requested a meeting with the Housing Committee sometime in the fall and suggested a strategy be developed, similar to doctor recruitment, in order to address housing shortage concerns.

CAO MacEachen mentioned that she has a meeting with CB Partnership tomorrow and will bring that up.

Councillor MacLeod also requested to have a meeting about littering, possibly with the RCMP and look into some green funding to help with some initiatives to try and stop the littering.

Councillor MacLeod congratulated the 2021 Graduates; this is a major milestone in their lives.

District 3

Warden Morrison mentioned the beautification grant. Baddeck Waterfront Committee is interested in applying for funding but can't as an entity, apply so they asked the Municipality to apply on their behalf for work to be completed on the waterfront Baddeck.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson and seconded by Councillor MacLeod to apply for the beautification grant for work to be completed at the waterfront in Baddeck

Motion carried.



Victoria County Municipal Council
June 28th, 2021

District 4

Councillor Longva would like to talk to Joan about heritage properties and said it seems easier to have a property listed as heritage property through the Municipality.

CAO mentioned that Joan has retired and we have not replaced that position and CAO MacEachen suggested that she and Councillor Longva meet on that to discuss next steps.

It was moved by Councillor Longva and seconded by Councillor Organ to take \$400.00 from her district budget for the Goose Cove Cemetery.

Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Longva and seconded by Councillor MacDonald to take \$700.00 from her district budget for the Riverside Cemetery.

Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Longva and seconded by Councillor MacNeil to take \$500.00 from her district budget for the North Shore Recreation Society for cemetery work.

Motion carried.

Councillor Longva congratulated the 2021 graduates from the County. Good job, happy days!

District 5

Councillor Patterson mentioned that someone put a sign up at the top of the road saying that heavy garbage was cancelled and it is very effective.

District 7

Councillor Organ also wanted the previous TAT concern mentioned under District Concerns as well.

Councillor Organ had a call about a close call with a car driving too fast and almost hit a little boy on the Point Road in North Ingonish. The speed limit is 50 and Councillor Organ, along with others think that it is too fast. That stretch of road is quite busy especially during the summer months, there are people walking, tourists going to their cottages and cars are usually parked on the water side of the road because of the beach. Councillor Organ requested that the speed limit be assessed and/or some signage saying "Caution Pedestrians".

Councillor Organ worked with CAO MacEachen and Warden Morrison on an issue with a land owner.



Victoria County Municipal Council
June 28th, 2021

Councillor Organ thanked all those who helped with graduations and congratulated the graduates and said; I'm sure they will go on to do great things.

District 8

Councillor MacDonald wanted to mention that North Highlands Community Centre also submitted a washroom application.

Councillor MacDonald expressed concern over graffiti spray painted along breaker rock wall, (no profanity, just looks terrible) in the North Harbour area (Dingwall Beach). Councillor MacDonald also mentioned that signage has been torn down as well.

Councillor MacDonald said that he is getting calls in regard to four wheelers ripping up and down beach area (protected area).

Councillor MacDonald requested that CAO MacEachen contact Morely MacNeil in regard to these issues.

It was moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Organ to take \$1,000.00 from his district budget for the North Highlands Home and School.

Motion carried

Councillor MacDonald said that due to Covid, fundraising initiatives have been hard on all organizations. This money will be used to assist all students with educational needs, supplies breakfast programs etc.

BYLAW/POLICY REVIEW

CAO MacEachen indicated that we will be taking by-law training and will be using Ms. Pond's checklist going forward with by-laws.

All Councillors asked to be signed up for this course.

COUNCIL MEETING

Next Council meeting is July 26, 2021.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil to adjourn.

The Municipality of the County of Victoria County council session was adjourned at 7:15pm.