



**Victoria County Municipal Council**  
August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at Council Chambers in Baddeck on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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 #8- Norman MacDonald

Also present were:

Leanne MacEachen, CAO

Stephanie MacLeod, Recorder

Dan Coffin, Tourism Officer

Jocelyn Bethune, Communications

Garrett Fazekas, IT

Absent: District #7- Jackie Organ. Sent her regrets for not being able to attend due to a family matter.



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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.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

***It was moved by Councillor MacNeil and seconded by MacLeod that the agenda be approved.***

***Motion Carried.***

Warden Morrison welcomed and introduced Erica Holgate, Victoria County's new Economic Development Officer.

**PORT HAWKESBURY PAPER**

Andrew Fedora and Allan Eddy presented the new developments with Port Hawkesbury Paper (PHP).

Some of the key highlights of the presentation were:

- New inquiries and complaints systems. Strongly encourage residents to use this.
- Community Engagement is a strong focus.
- Greener, more sustainable economy.
- There is a new part of the company; Port Hawkesbury Paper & Wind, building on the success of Port Hawkesbury Paper.
- PHP represent 10% of all the power on the grid.
- New tariff, Nova Scotia Power decides how much power PHP gets to take advantage of.
- Low Carbon Economy is Driving Innovation.
- Wind resource and environmental studies ongoing. How to best utilize the wind for economic benefits.
- Hired a full-time technical director.
- Wind Storage is a major area that they will be looking into over the next few years.

Questions:



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Councillor Patterson asked how many wind units there would be. Mr. Eddy said it depends where it ends up, depending on the 115 or the 150 mega watts. Also, depending on what the technical analysis comes out with, but in general, Mr. Eddy believes the farm would be somewhere between 28 and 34 kilowatt hours.

Councillor Patterson mentioned that because they were discussing wind farms, he wanted to confirm that PHP was still in the paper business.

Mr. Eddy confirmed that indeed they were, but his focus was on the wind power side of the business.

Councillor Patterson also asked what percentage of harvesters will be in Victoria County and Mr. Fedora said it depends on what time of year.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee asked why PHP decided on Guysborough. Mr. Eddy couldn't give a definitive answer, but it has something to do with the meta wind data and assured the Deputy Warden that it was not done because of any tax incentive from that municipality.

Councillor MacDonald asked for a copy of the presentation and Steff mentioned that she will make sure councillors are sent a copy of the presentation.

Councillor MacDonald also asked where the largest wind farm is in Nova Scotia and Mr. Eddy said to his knowledge it was in South Canoe and its 100 megawatts.

Councillor MacNeil hasn't heard of any major complaints about PHP over the last few years and added that it was good to see the direction toward green energy.

Councillor MacLeod asked when they expect the wind farm to be up and running and Mr. Eddy responded that ideally, they would see first power from the farm in early 2024.

Councillor Longva appreciated that they were make green energy a priority.

Warden thanked them for their presentation and appreciated the direction of green energy.



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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

***It was moved by Deputy Warden Dauphinee and seconded by Councillor Longva that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, be approved.***

***Motion carried.***

**CAO REPORT**

***Old Business***

Uisge Ban falls - tenders put out for gravel on main trail - nothing new on closed sections. Then going to move to second section.

PAC - update- sent to Council. Provincial Government can't do anything until after the election.

Request has been made to have CBVCRE to come to Council they will be attending the Sept 20 Council session.

Ingonish land - have contacted the surveyor, waiting on them to get up to start the project.

Portable scale: will not be moving forward with the scale but we are looking into how other municipalities deal with this problem and will be looking into a fee-based system with excess based problem. Will have an update by next council session on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

***New Business***

***Senior Safety***

Good Food Bus is narrowing down locations - can't guarantee any, but will try to accommodate as many as possible

Concerns for seniors in the hotter weather. Putting together some cooling down tips.

Spoke with Sonia at Clean Foundation regarding Home Warming Program (efficiency rebates to upgrade homes). Info sessions are planned for the Fall around the County.

***Tourism***

Speaking with groups about a Baddeck Branding initiative.



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Tourism seems to be picking up, operators feeling optimistic but all seem to be having labour issues. Gondola is set to open soon - causing a buzz in the Communities.

In discussions with National Global news about doing a Live Broadcast on the Waterfront in Baddeck - down to Baddeck, or Halifax.

Dingwall Placemaking session happened - Good presence at it, the St Ann's (Indian Brook Community Hall) placemaking session will be Tuesday, Aug 24.

***Rec/AL***

Mobi-Mats are installed - Warren Lake, and Freshwater Lake.

Step Challenge - 100 people signed up, great participation.

Placemaking sessions are ongoing- Tuesday is next session, (tomorrow) Indian Brook fire Hall.

Trails are in survey stage, sections have been started, Trail is moving along.

Working on a Gender Equity Initiative with Cape Smokey.

Active Smarter Kids Training - school pilot program - working to get more Physical Activities in the schools.

Confirming dates for BSL Mental Health 1st aid training.

***Finance***

Properties have been sent to PVSC that don't have an assessment number.

Property tax exemption recommendation - need to schedule a meeting Working on Year end, and Year end reports.

***Public Works***

Shared garbage box issues, adjusting pickup based on issues arising from residents about PID's on a road/shared boxes.

Heavy Garbage - starting Sept 27.

Lead sampling program within Water system ongoing - check the website for more info.

Parks - water Tank is getting inspected, we have taken over the water operations at the Park in Ingonish.

Lester Tingley will start surveys on selected locations that are municipally owned.

Land purchase application for Provincial land for new Transfer site has gone in - could be a long process.



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**Other**

Heavy Garbage - Sept 27 start.

CAO MacEachen indicated she would like a review of the current Streetlight Policy. Nova Scotia Power is billing us for streetlight changeovers.

CAO MacEachen indicated that our bill has dropped on our streetlights, but we received a significant bill from Nova Scotia Power for streetlight changeovers. and she is in discussions with Nova Scotia Power as she was not aware these charges would be billed.

Councillor MacNeil mentioned that back when Nova Scotia Power first approached the County about the changeovers, it was asked in Council at that time if there would be any cost and they said no.

CAO said she is taking it around to the rest of the province because she said we should have a united front on this issue and she indicated that she hasn't paid the bill yet.

***It was moved by Councillor Patterson and seconded by Councillor MacNeil to get further information and voicing our disapproval to Nova Scotia Power.***

***Motion Carried.***

Councillor MacNeil asked if NSP did a survey on what streetlights they own and what lights the Municipality owns.

CAO MacEachen said she has asked for a detailed list of where the lights are and was informed that NSP does not have the list right now.

Councillor Patterson asked how much the bill was and CAO MacEachen indicated it was about \$34,000.

Councillor MacDonald asked if heavy garbage will be tendered out and CAO MacEachen believes that the South pickup will be carried out by County staff and north might be tendered out. CAO will check on the North section.

Warden Morrison asked about the Gateway funding and asked Council what they want to do.

Deputy Warden asked what the other municipalities put in and CAO MacEachen indicated that the ask from all was 5k and to date no one has put any money forward.

***It was moved by Deputy Warden Dauphinee and seconded by Councillor MacDonald to approve a matched amount to the gateway project based on other Municipalities contributions.***

***Motion carried.***



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**RECESS**

Warden Morrison called for a 10–15-minute recess. The live feed paused at 50:49 and resumed at 1:15:18.

**TAXATION UPDATE**

\$7,151,554 total outstanding, compared to \$6,876,771 this time last year for a difference of \$274,783 behind.

Current outstanding is behind last year by \$542,123 with \$6,592,260 in current as of today vs. \$6,050,137 in current this time last year.

As previously noted, tax bills went out two weeks later this year than last year, potentially causing a bit of a timing difference. Historically we receive a lot of payments in the days immediately leading up to the due date.

Arrears are continuing to show improvement at \$267,340 better than last year - \$559,294 in arrears outstanding for this year vs. \$826,634 this time last year.

After meeting with legal, we have scheduled our next tax sale date to be December 7, 2021.

Since the bills went out on July 14, \$2.42m has been collected toward outstanding taxes/interest!

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND ACTIVE TRANSIT (TAT)**

**District 1**

Councillor MacNeil had the following TAT concerns:

- Still no mowing/cutting in the area.
- Patching and work for the road from Little Narrows Ferry through Hazeldale and to Washabuck.
- Boards Lifting on the Bridge at the St Columba turnoff in Washabuck has to be addressed.

**District 2**

Councillor MacLeod said that there is loose gravel at the stop in Big Baddeck and also at the stop sign on Campbell Street. Councillor MacLeod said she sent this information to Steve.

**District 3**



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Warden Morrison had no TAT concerns at this time.

**District 4**

Councillor Longva thanked Steve for the hidden driveway sign on the Baddeck Bay Road and also for all the road work happening in Englishtown. She had the following current concerns:

- The Ciad Mille Faite sign has still not been replaced on the Gaelic College hill, it is very worn out looking.
- The Old Big Harbour sign has not been added to the Plaister Mines sign yet, the constituents asked for this 10 months ago as they were having issues with deliveries not being received due to place name confusion. This is in her hands now and will be dealt with.
- The existing Plaister Mines signs are both barely visible as both are covered with overgrowth.
- All roadsides and ditches in the district need to be cut back as it is a danger for animals not being seen and when pulling out of driveways.

**District 5**

Councillor Patterson said the Ross Ferry Farmers Market are selling goods at the end of driveways, most people come in at exit 13 and go around Kempt Head but its not in great shape. Steeles Cross Road and the Matheson Road are in bad shape so a lot of people don't come over to the market on that side because of the condition of the road.

**District 6**

Deputy Warden Dauphinee said he has been receiving calls regarding the look off at Cape Smokey. He and EMO Lyle Donovan have been in touch with Steve at TAT and he is aware of the concerns and said there is a repair plan in place, they are just waiting for costing.

**District 8**

Councillor MacDonald had the following TAT concerns:

- Shore Road (South Harbour) is in need of gravel near the Hideaway Campground.
- Safety concern on the roadway from Cabot Trail turning down to Shore Road, Councillor MacDonald has sent this concern to Steve but wanted it recorded for the Minutes.
- Thanked TAT for the brush cutter and patching work .





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Councillor acknowledged the retirement of Bruce Courtney after 34 years of service with TAT and wished him all the best in retirement.

**DISTRICT CONCERNS**

**District 1**

Councillor MacNeil had the following district concerns:

- The Highland Village is looking for a letter of support from the County to help with applications to foundations for a fundraising program, indicating the importance of the Village to the economy of the county and as a major employer and tourism draw.

***It was moved by Councillor MacNeil and seconded by Councillor MacLeod to send a letter of support to the Highland Village.***

***Motion Carried.***

- Rodney with the Nova Scotia Highland Village would like to present to council on their big project that is underway at the site. Possibly in October.
- Hearing a lot of concerns from residents on the school bus policy and that it is not suited for rural communities.
- Rankin School of the Narrows is looking at starting a project to put a roof over the rink at the school. Would like a meeting with Lydia, Dan, and Larry Maxwell from the province.
- Thank You to all who participated in the Placemaking session at the Port in Iona. Thanks to staff for hosting and being so accommodating to people.

**District 2**

Councillor MacLeod said the conditions of the road at Baddeck Academy going down to the bus garage is in terrible shape. Councillor MacLeod asked the Warden who is responsible for this road and Warden Morrison indicated he would find out.

***It was moved by Councillor MacLeod and seconded by Councillor Longva to send a letter to EHS inviting them to attend a Council session to address the current ambulatory concerns.***

***Motion Carried.***



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**District 3**

Warden Morrison, like Councillor MacLeod, also received calls concerning the ambulance wait times and agrees with Councillor MacLeod in having a representative from EHS attend a council session to discuss. And possibly send a letter to the Premier and Keith Bain.

Warden Morrison made the following proclamations:

**ANTI BULLYING PROCLAMATION**

***Whereas, September 20<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 has been declared “Bullying Elimination Week”. This event can be celebrated annually; and***

***Whereas, Bullying has always been a significant international dilemma that can lead to death for victims in extreme circumstances; and***

***Whereas, Bullying can impact the lives of children and adolescents of all ages. Also, the lifetime effects that victimization can lead to for former and current victims can be devastating to say the least; and***

***Whereas, there is hope for victims of bullying which is why this significant event is being proclaimed. “Bullying Elimination Week” proves that bullying victims are not alone in the world and that a lot of people care about what they are experiencing; and***

***Whereas, the onus is on all of the citizens of Canada and world-wide to be the positive change that is needed in this world in order to prove to bullying victims that there are millions of citizens globally who want to see bullying eliminated from society at all costs; and***

***Whereas, “Bullying Elimination Week” is an all-colour event in which all of the citizens of the world wear their colours of choice with pride in order to prove to bullying victims that they are not alone in the world, yet to also prove that victims can wear what they can proudly choose to wear without being afraid of what other citizens will think or say about them.***

***NOW THEREFORE, I, Warden Morrison, by the authority vested in me as Warden of the Municipality of the County of Victoria, hereby proclaim September 20<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 as “Bullying Elimination Week” in Victoria County and I wholeheartedly encourage the residents of Victoria County to help show their support for bullying elimination and bullying reduction events world-wide. Bullying is an important international issue which must be addressed as soon as humanly possible.***

***IN WITNESS THEREFORE, I have through the power of my hand caused the Seal of Victoria County to be affixed this August 23, 2021.***



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***FETAL ALCOHOL AWARENESS PROCLAMTION***

*The Municipality of the County of Victoria council proclaimed the week of September 6 – 10, 2021 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Week in Victoria County.*

*FASD is the leading cause of developmental disability with approximately 1.45 million Canadians impacted.*

*The Newfoundland & Labrador chapter of the FASD works to educate, network, and share resources to improve the lives of individuals, families, and communities across Newfoundland and Labrador. They are currently leading a multi-year FASD project in Atlantic Canada funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada.*

*September 9th marks international FASD day. This day is recognized around the world and is intended to build awareness about the condition and surrounding stigma within communities, organizations, and governments.*

***It was moved by Warden Morrison and seconded by Councillor MacLeod to declare September 20-September 26<sup>th</sup> Anti-Bullying Week in Victoria County.***

***Motion Carried.***

***It was moved by Warden Morrison and seconded by Councillor MacLeod to declare September 6-September 10<sup>th</sup> Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Week in Victoria County.***

***Motion Carried.***

Warden Morrison received a thank you note from Susan DiFiore and Judy King, BOLD representatives. They wanted to thank the staff at the Transfer Station and how happy they were with them for their assistance with the ReUse Centre.

**District 4**

Councillor Longva mentioned that EHS responded very quickly to a family member that had a stroke, it was their quick response that saved her life.

Councillor Longva recognized Kale Morrison for his act of bravery last week. He came to the assistance of an elderly woman who was in trouble in waters off Margaree. He came to her assistance called for help from people on the shore and stayed with her until they arrived. She requested the county recognize this selfless act of courage and kindness. His parents are Vaughn and Amanda Morrison.



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***It was moved by Councillor Longva and seconded by Deputy Warden Dauphinee to send a letter to Kale Morrison in recognition of his bravery.***

***Motion Carried.***

Councillor Longva said it was brought to her attention whilst kayaking off Baddeck Bay that in Hurricane Hole or Bells Harbour the sandbar is washed out to a width of approximately 30 feet and is extremely shallow. This could be a hazard to power boaters who are not familiar with the area.

***It was moved by Councillor Longva and seconded by Councillor MacNeil requesting the CAO to inquire as to who should be contacted regarding the shallow waters in Baddeck Bay.***

***Motion Carried.***

Councillor Longva asked that \$500.00 be taken out of her District Budget for SABDA to help with their newcomer initiatives.

**District 5**

Councillor Patterson congratulated the residents in his district for starting the Ross Ferry Summer Music Camp.

**District 6**

***It was moved by Deputy Warden Dauphinee and seconded by Councillor Patterson to send a letter to Premier Houston and MLA Keith Bain congratulating them on their recent election win.***

***Motion Carried.***

***It was moved by Deputy Warden Dauphinee and seconded by Councillor MacNeil to send a letter to Premier Houston and MLA Keith Bain inviting them to a meeting to discuss the protected land areas in Victoria County.***

***Motion Carried.***

Deputy Warden requested the 2016 letter stating that these lands would not be included in the protected land areas be sent along with this letter as well.



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**District 8**

Councillor MacDonald mentioned that the Crab Fest and Parade of Boats in Bay St Lawrence was a huge success. The Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre and the Fire Department did good work with this.

The first Lions Club Family Fun Fest was also held yesterday and a great turnout from the community and tourists.

**BYLAW/POLICY REVIEW**

***It was moved by Deputy Warden Dauphinee and seconded by Councillor Longva to approve the second and final reading of the amended Deed Transfer Tax By-Law.***

***Motion carried***

**MEETINGS**

Councillor MacLeod requested the Transit Committee meet on September 20<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.

**IN CAMERA**

Warden Morrison indicated that an In Camera meeting would take place to discuss real estate and financial issues.

***It was moved by Councillor MacNeil and seconded by Councillor MacDonald to move into an In Camera Session.***

***Motion Carried.***

**COUNCIL MEETING**

Next Council meeting is September 20, 2021.

**ADJOURN**

***It was moved by Councillor MacNeil to adjourn.***

The Municipality of the County of Victoria County council session was adjourned at 7: 21pm.