



Victoria County Municipal Council
November 15th, 2021

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at Council Chambers in Baddeck on November 15th, 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

Stephanie MacLeod, Recorder

Jocelyn Bethune, Communications

Erica Holgate, EDO

Dan Coffin, Tourism Officer

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.



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CALL TO ORDER

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

Councillor Patterson requested that his reports from FCM and Federation of Agriculture be added under Committee Reports.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil and seconded by Deputy Warden Dauphinee that the agenda be approved with the added items.

Motion Carried.

ST. ANN'S TIMEBANK PRESENTATION – PATSY LEBLANC

Ms. LeBlanc discussed the St. Ann's Timebank with Council and thanked Victoria County for their support of the Timebank and said that it may not exist without the support from the County.

Ms. LeBlanc gave an update on the Timebank and said that over 3500 hours have been exchanged between members.

Loril Shannick has been hired as Membership Coordinator, her focus is to be involved with members. They are encouraging members to contact Loril, computers were a stumbling block for many so if they contact Loril it will make is much easier.

They are in the midst of having local community meetings asking people what is it in your community that you would like to see happen. People seem to come out for these meetings and connect with each other.

They want to take the timebank model and take it to the rest of the County. Some members are inactive so Ms. LeBlanc would like to attract people in the district who want to get enthusiastic about timebank, the people who live in the community are the ones that can really help and she is building a framework that she is taking to different communities.

Ms. LeBlanc asked if each of the Councillors could share the timebank information in their districts and have their constituents contact her to get involved.

Councillor MacDonald said that Bay St. Lawrence does have a small timebank and asked if there was initial cost to start up.

Ms. LeBlanc said that there isn't any start-up cost and in face we put in the budget, the County approved for up to \$2000 t that can go back into the community. If the group decides that they want their own timebank and that's a discussion they may want to have. St. Ann's Timebank is for all residents but there could be a group that want to have their own timebank in their area. There is no cost



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for the first year and the only cost would be the price that you pay for the web development. So for the first year there is no cost then after that the cost goes by the number of members you have. If there are 4 groups we can offer up to \$500 to the group who are willing to take something on.

Councillor Organ said she will pass on the information.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee asked what is the average age group of members? Ms. LeBlanc said there are not as many young people as we would like to see but I would like to approach the schools. Approximately 68% are seniors.

Councillor Patterson congratulated Ms. LeBlanc on this initiative and asked is there much call for gardening and snow shovelling, etc?

Ms. LeBlanc said there is some need but we are not getting as many requests as we would like because a lot of people are too private but they are working with the Age Friendly groups to reach more people.

Councillor MacNeil asked who would represent people in every district? Would it be the same person from St. Ann's.

Ms. LeBlanc said that will be part of Loril's role as well.

Councillor MacLeod said it is a very nice way to give back to the community and wanted clarification on what the ask was.

Ms. LeBlanc said that participation between senior safety and timebank would be great and that the plan is to have several sessions throughout the various areas that will introduce new comers and youth and we are asking senior safety to support that and share the information.

Councillor MacLeod mentioned the meeting that took place in Baddeck about 2 years ago and asked about the follow up with that and Ms. LeBlanc said because of Covid, the momentum stopped with that.

Councillor Longva thanked Ms. LeBlanc for all the work she does with the timebank and mentioned the snow shovelling contest and how great it was.

Warden Morrison thanked Ms. LeBlanc and said that Council would promote timebank and its use within their districts.



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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the October 18th, 2021, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Longva and seconded by Councillor Organ that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of October 18th, 2021, be approved.

Motion carried.

CAO REPORT

Old Business

- Waiting on Develop Nova Scotia to have time for a meeting – Cape Breton Partnership is dealing with them - meeting was held.
- EDO (Erica) scheduled a meeting with the rink, and we will plan a Vision Baddeck session to bring groups together.
- Letter of support for District 8's CCA request has been sent, hoping to get interest from Futureworx.
- Letter sent to Nova Scotia Health Authority to confirm what they have agreed to at the October 4th Council session.
- Department of Public Works meeting is being scheduled- need to get Steve's timeline.
- ACTing Collectively EOI was sent in for funding of the ACT Tool and we just found out today that we were successful in our EOI on that.
- The Village of Baddeck through the Municipality were successful in getting a beautification grant for \$25,000 the waterfront.
- Letter this week from Keith Bain regarding Highland Manor and it is on the Provincial list to be looked at.
- School bus yard - Contractor giving a quote to CBVRCE this week, should be done soon, per Lewis MacDonald.
- Erica is contacting New Dawn to determine next steps related to a housing initiative.

Councillor Organ requested a letter to be sent in to CBVRCE requesting a follow up meeting early in the new year.

Councillor MacNeil mentioned that he has a contact number for anyone that is having trouble with the new broadband.



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CAO MacEachen got an update from Bell for broadband in Neil's Harbour.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee asked about any survey updates in Ingonish. CAO said she has not but the piece we asked him to survey is not as clear cut, so it may not be a simple survey.

Councillor Patterson said that the Age Friendly Committee will be meeting soon to discuss next steps for the ACTing Collectively successful EOI.

New Business

Senior Safety

- Rick Hansen Training.
- Transit Fare Assistance - will be handing out pamphlets to referral sources/bus drivers.
- Working on Virtual Seniors Lunches with SABDA/Time Bank.

Rec/AL

- Working on Trails/Placemaking Initiatives
- North Highlands Nordic - met, to discuss updates
- Gender equity/Ski in school Looking to do winter snowshoe hikes this winter- partnering with organizations to make happen
- MPAL meetings happened last week
- Working on getting word out for Trails funding for this year
- Looking to offer a babysitting course to young residents - BOLD will be hosting
- Dalem Lake walks are going well
- Working with Community Health Board on Presentations
- Accessibility Consultations for Accessibility Initiatives
- Looking for community garden funding to replace beds

Finance

- Cleaning up year end,
- Working on sending out Village tax bills

Public Works

- Still working on our definitions for acceptance/prohibition of garbage - however - If Environment says we can't take it, we can't take it.
- Waiting on an updated quote for Traffic light at the Scale House
- Invoices will be mailed soon on Landfill changes
- RFP Snow removal for specific sites will be happening soon
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Tourism

- Trails- update prior to Council session.
- RFP for next section has gone out.
- Bidders meeting happened. Athol is highly engaged, working on parking lot at our transfer station Finishing up Phase 1 of trail - we can arrange a walk of it.
- Moving forward with Trail Head Upgrades and Shelter Improvements, should hear about from Dan's update.
- Looking to purchase trail equipment.
- Trails groups seem pleased with our commitment to trails.
- Adventure Tourism launch in Cape North - well attended.
- Working on getting Operator listings updated on our website.
- Dealing with washroom issues (Parks Canada/County/operators in general).
- Seawall Trail - April start on upgrades.
- Cabot Trail Food Rally was well received.
- Dealing with Development NS - keen on partnering for Placemaking sessions - will be discussed in future DCBA meeting, Inverness also attended. Many items discussed, including Housing/Labour shortages
- Cabot Trail Working group - a bit of a revamp, taking an inventory of Cabot Trail signs Winter readiness with ACOA is progressing
- Snowmobile Fest - looking at February

EDO

- Working on Housing Initiatives - Developing a survey to get some insight
- Working on getting a meeting on Broadband

Other

- Courthouse review first draft received- will be presenting to Council
- Road Show throughout last week and this week
- Interviewing for IT Director on Nov 5

Councillor Longva asked for an update on the rink and Warden Morrison said there will be an update once the committee meets this week.

Warden Morrison asked about the ICI tags and CAO MacEachen said no one came forward looking for them when we were on the roadshow and she does not have an update on how many have been sold.



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TAXATION UPDATE

As of today, we have \$1,584,929 total outstanding, compared to \$2,066,035 this time last year for a total difference of \$481,106 ahead!

For current outstanding we are ahead of last year by \$272,352 with \$1,120,005 as of today vs. \$1,392,357 in current this time last year.

Arrears also continues to maintain the positive direction at \$208,754 better than last year with \$464,924 in arrears outstanding for this year vs. \$673,678 this time last year.

1,790 reminder letters went out within just the last couple of weeks. We have received some feedback from a few residents now regarding the strong wording in the most recent letter. While we want to maintain the rather aggressive approach we've been using (and it's been working!), we've also taken these concerns into consideration. For future reminder letters we intend to separate out those who owe just one year from those who owe more and adapt the wording accordingly. The next batch of reminders will be going out in early December.

In terms of tax sales, we ran the first ad for our December 14th tax sale in the Cape Breton Post on Saturday and it is also now posted on our website. This is by tender and includes eight properties. The list on our website will be updated weekly (if needed) and the second ad will be in Cape Breton Post on Saturday, December 11th as required by the MGA.

Our next tax sale will be a public auction here at the Courthouse on January 18th. The 60 day notices for this sale went out today and the sale includes eight properties. These are properties that were previously advertised but were pulled prior to the sale.

We hope to have one more tax sale after that, prior to March 31st. A batch of 61 potential properties were just sent to legal.

Warden Morrison mentioned that we had an In Camera session prior to Council and there were a number of recommendations made at that meeting.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee made a motion and seconded by Councillor MacLeod to adopt the recommendations from the In Camera meeting held.

Motion Carried.



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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

District 1

Councillor MacNeil had the following Public Works concerns:

- Thanked the Department for the patching that was done but mentioned that there were lots of holes that were missed especially in Washabuck area and Councillor MacNeil said some areas that were patched will be tore up once the snow plows are out.
- Residents are not pleased that the shoulders of the road were not mowed this year at all and no brush cutting was done in the area.
- Councillor MacNeil asked if there was any update of meeting with Public Works Officials before the winter season.

District 2

Councillor MacLeod had nothing new to report at this time.

District 3

Warden Morrison acknowledged the cooperation with Steve on an issue on Fownes Drive and Shore Road and he came up with a number of recommendations and they should be made over the next few weeks.

Warden Morrison also mentioned that the are from the top of Old Margaree Road to the Trans Canada going down the hill, on the right leaving town, that shoulder is washed out.

Warden Morrison also mentioned the pot holes at Hilltop Crescent still have not been repaired.

District 4

Councillor Longva thanked the Department for the tree and brush trimming that was done in Wreck Cove but it seems to have stopped there. Councillor Longva said she did notify Steve asking when they will do the rest of the North Shore.

District 5

Councillor Patterson said that there is a pothole (rut) where the St. James Road joins Old Route 5.

District 6

Deputy Warden Dauphinee had nothing new to report at this time.



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District 7

Councillor Organ had one call for road repair and one for flooding. Both issues have been sent off to Steve.

District 8

Councillor MacDonald requested a review for a 'school zone' in the area of the Cabot Trail Food Market. It is a busy location at all times of the day and there was a recent near fatal accident there. Traffic continues to miss the lights of the school bus.

Councillor MacDonald was in contact with Steve MacDonald, and he says that "the school bus sign request needs to go through the school board, they pick the locations to pick up children, they select locations with good stopping sight distance. If they feel a school bus sign is warranted, they need to contact us for our review.

It was moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Organ to contact the CBRVCE to contact Department of Public Works and request a school zone review for the area near the Cabot Trail Food Market.

Motion Carried.

Councillor MacDonald mentioned that the guardrail is completely down in area of Bay Road Valley and needs immediate attention.

Councillor MacDonald thanked the Department for the ditching on Fraser Road in St Margaret's Village and some much-needed shouldering that was done.

It was moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor MacNeil to send a letter to Nelson Dixon acknowledging his retirement from the Department and his 33 years of service.

Motion Carried.

Councillor MacDonald wished him well and said that Mr. Dixon was the OS for the past number of years and was a great resource and will be missed.

DISTRICT CONCERNS



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District 1

Councillor MacNeil asked who do businesses and individuals contact for Archives and Historic Building information now that Joan is retired.

CAO MacEachen asked if Council would be interested in contacting the Beaton Institute to see if they are interested in taking the historical documents. Some documents will remain at the Courthouse.

Councillor MacNeil made a motion and seconded by Councillor MacDonald that CAO MacEachen will contact the Beaton Institute to see if they are interested in taking some of Victoria County's historical documents.

Motion Carried.

Councillor MacNeil asked if there was any update on the bridge streetlights and CAO MacEachen said Lynk said they have to be contacted by the provincial Department of Public Works, and said she will contact them again.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil and seconded by Deputy Warden Dauphinee that a letter of support for Category B Lobster Fishermen be sent to the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Motion carried.

District 2

Councillor MacLeod mentioned that the landscaping that was supposed to be done at Baddeck Academy was not completed and asked for a letter be sent to the CBVRCE requesting the landscaping be done in Spring 2022.

Councillor MacLeod made a motion and seconded by Councillor MacDonald for a letter to be sent to Susan Kelley with the CBVRCE to request landscaping be done at Baddeck Academy in Spring 2022.

Motion Carried.

Councillor MacLeod requested a streetlight at 1953 West Side Big Baddeck.

Motion Carried.

Councillor MacLeod made a motion and seconded by Councillor Longva for a letter to be sent to Minister Rushton of the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables regarding the status of the River Trail at Uisge Ban Falls.

Motion Carried.



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Councillor MacLeod wants to know if/when the main trail will be fixed and/or upgraded and said that Uisge Ban Falls are one of the main year around attractions to Baddeck. Councillor MacLeod also asked for MLA Bain to be cc'd.

Councillor MacLeod requested an update from Develop Nova Scotia for broadband and could this be a public one and CAO MacEachen said we will try.

Councillor MacLeod has been asked why we don't add ER closures to the Voyent Alert System. CAO MacEachen commented that we have an administrative policy for how Voyent works and we only want to use Voyent for municipal services.

RECESS

Warden Morrison called for a 20 minute recess at 6:07pm.

District 3

Warden Morrison mentioned that the Christmas Parade is taking place in Baddeck on November 27, 2021 at 4pm and asked if any councillors were available to come.

Warden Morrison was invited to the Christmas Tree cutting at L'Arche and requested a thank you note to L'Arche. S

Deputy Warden Dauphinee made a motion and seconded by Councillor MacNeil to send a letter a thank you letter to L'Arche.

Motion Carried.

Warden Morrison acknowledged the CAO and staff for representing the County at the roadshows.

District 4

Councillor Longva made a motion and seconded by Councillor Organ to send a letter to Minister Dunn to show support to groups who are trying to stop the rock quarry. CC' Minister Halman, Minister Ruston, MLA Bain and Van Zutphen Construction.

Motion Carried.

Councillor Longva mentioned a local family raised concerns over rural bussing for their child and requested a letter be sent to the CBVRCE requesting them to be more flexible in their bussing policies.



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Councillor Longva made a motion and seconded by Councillor MacLeod to send a letter to CBVRCE over bussing concerns.

Motion Carried.

Councillor MacNeil said the same issue came up with a child going to Rankin and we were told that courtesy bussing would be offered and its not.

Councillor Longva also mentioned that the streetlight is burnt out at Plaister Park, just north of civic address 44880 Cabot Trail.

Councillor Longva said she received complaints about a structure at 47778 Cabot Trail and that she has been in contact with John Bain with EDPC about that.

Councillor Longva requested a “No Dumping” sign at the St. Ann’s look off. There has been a lot of furniture, appliances, etc. at this location.

District 5

Councillor Patterson said the St. James Church was broken into several times creating significant damage.

It was moved by Councillor Patterson and seconded by Deputy Warden Dauphinee to take \$2000.00 from his district budget for the St. James Church.

Motion Carried.

District 6

Deputy Warden Dauphinee asked about the hazardous waste pickup.

CAO MacEachen said we didn’t talk about pick up of these items but we are looking at having a spot at our sites to drop that type of material off and she said she will look into where Public Works is at with that.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee asked about the state of the sidewalks in the Ingonish Beach area, there are a number of sections that are completely crumbled and requested that we have someone inspect those sidewalks. He suggested maybe in the spring since it is getting too late in the year now. CAO MacEachen indicated she has seen some pictures of them and she will follow up with Public Works on this.

District 7



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Councillor Organ asked about the water system repair, some people were caught off guard when they lost their water due to this repair.

Councillor Organ made a motion seconded by Deputy Warden Dauphinee requested \$250.00 from her district budget for Holiday Helpers and \$250.00 for the Neil's Harbour – New Haven Development Association for Christmas Trap tree lighting.

Councillor Organ requested a sympathy card to John Berk and family on the loss of his son and CAO MacEachen indicated we would.

District 8

Councillor MacDonald thanked the water department on the repairs that have been done but said the water disruption messaging wasn't relayed in a timely matter.

Councillor MacDonald asked if Public Works could give more advanced notice if possible.

CAO MacEachen indicated these issues were not scheduled; but some were scheduled after the break. Most of the time when there is a water break, there is no notice, Public Works tries to get messaging out as timely as they can but sometimes it's not possible. CAO MacEachen understands the frustrations and assures residents, that Public Works will do the best they can with messaging.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councillor Patterson in November 2017 we passed a motion to look at agricultural land in the County and with the upcoming Upland meetings, perhaps we should look into this motion.

Councillor Patterson mentioned that there is an in person meetings in Ottawa next week that he will be attending and will report back.

Councillor MacNeil said the CEPI meeting is November 24th via Zoom, let Councillor MacNeil know if you would like to attend.

Warden Morrison said that he and Councillor MacNeil met with EMO.

Warden Morrison received a letter of concern from SABDA regarding the rock quarry and we will be writing back to them letting them know that the motion made by Councillor Longva was supported.

Warden Morrison will be away so Deputy Warden Dauphinee will Chair the next meeting.



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COUNCIL MEETING

Next Council meeting is November 29th, 2021.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Deputy Warden Dauphinee to adjourn.

The Municipality of the County of Victoria County council session was adjourned at 6:50pm.