



Victoria County Municipal Council
October 4, 2021

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at Council Chambers in Baddeck on October 18th, 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

1 Member of the Public was in attendance:

- Steve Kerr



Victoria County Municipal Council
October 4, 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.

CALL TO ORDER

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

It was moved by Councillor Longva and seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the agenda be approved with the noted changes.

Motion Carried.

Patterson added the ACTing Collectively EOI request to the agenda.

HIGHLAND VILLAGE PRESENTATION – RODNEY CHAISSON

Mr. Chaisson with the Highland Village provided an overview of the new infrastructure at the Highland Village. Some of the highlights mentioned were;

New Buildings on Site:

- Went over the new washrooms building as needed because of the cruise ship traffic.
- New workshop building, modern maintenance shop.
- The “Little Barn” Activity Centre, newly renovated, can do various workshops in there. Also serves as an interpretive centre for visitors who cannot walk up the hill. Can also be used for weddings and other social functions.
- Shingle Mill, 2 working mills working side by side now.
- Curatorial Centre, artifact storage and costume department. This was the old visitor centre.
- New welcome and cultural centre, will be open year around. Completion of this building will be in 2022.
- Budget and Strategic Plan:
 - Strengthen the Story
 - Team Recruitment and Retention
 - Creative Partnerships
 - Enhanced Site



Victoria County Municipal Council
October 4, 2021

Future Plans:

- Museums change lives, engaging with marginalized communities, working towards creating these programs.
- Launching an online gift shop

Questions:

Councillor Patterson asked how the visitor experience compares to other sites?

Mr. Chaisson said we have gotten a lot of good feedback over the years. Trip Advisor Visitor experience certificates the last 5 years. People seem to like the first-person story.

Councillor MacDonald asked something about numbers*** and asked if there are any staffing issues.

Mr. Chaisson has staff from age 15 to 82. We have a dedicated staff but we do have an aging staff.

Councillor Longva asked if they are looking for artifacts?

Mr. Chaisson said there are certain things they are open to receiving, people can call the museum and let them know what they have. Contact Pauline with the collections centre for help.

Councillor MacLeod asked if they closed early.

Mr. Chaisson said the last two years they have closed early because of covid and no cruise ship traffic or Celtic colours tourists. They are hoping to be back early and closing later next year.

Councillor MacNeil thanked Rodney for the presentation and commented that the Highland Village is a hidden gem for Victoria County.

Councillor MacNeil said thank you to your staff as well for all the work they have done and that he appreciates the ties with the Miq'kmaq community.

Mr. Chaisson thanked Councillor MacNeil for his dedication to the museum.

Warden Morrison thanked Mr. Chaisson for the presentation and would appreciate a tour of the new facility.

Mr. Chaisson suggested having a council session in the new building.

Steve Kerr asked if the funding from the government is contingent on participation from community/county funding.

VICTORIA HIGHLAND CIVIC CENTRE PRESENTATION – JOHN TRICKETT and SEAN MacSWEEN

Mr. Trickett gave an overview and brief history of the rink and went over some of the concerns/issues they are currently facing. Some of those include;

- They went to the board with a 5-year plan with 2 goals; 1) New roof 2) Add additional dressing rooms to accommodate female guests.
- They commissioned a design assessment and identified any serious structural issues and potential safety or building code of review.
- The report had some must do items:
 - a. Address existing fire and life safety.
 - b. Address building envelop and system failures.
 - c. First priority was safety. It is safe with some mitigations that are put in place right away. They need to monitor the snow load on the roof, monitor the depth. Gets to a certain depth, it needs to be removed.
 - d. The west wall is rusted out. The structure has rusted out braces. Staff cant walk around the west side of the building.

Mr. Trickett said the building is still safe.

- Must Do Items:
 - a) Went over estimated costs...2.67 million dollars.
 - b) If there is a strong wind from the west, people cant walk near the west wall.
 - c) Should Do's:
 - d) 3-4 years time.
 - e) Estimated cost of should and could do is \$5.7m

Mr. Trickett said a complete rebuild would cost. \$8.2m

The existing centre is at the end of its life and they have to make some decisions. They had discussions with Chief Norman Bernard. He is aware of the challenges and sees the needs and supports having a building/project for the region. He also reached out to MP Batitise and will meet with the rink end of October, early November and MLA Bain will also be meeting with the group as well.

Mr. Trickett asked the County to work with the Chief, the provincial and federal governments.

Warden Morrison thanked Mr. Trickett and Mr. MacSween for their presentation and said it was a daunting task of trying to figure out next steps and opened the floor up to questions.



Victoria County Municipal Council
October 4, 2021

Questions:

Deputy Warden Dauphinee asked about the operational budget from year to year.

Mr. Trickett said the operational budget year to year is good, capital spending is not good at all. Add more to this answer.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee asked if he looked at any other options?

Mr. Trickett said we haven't, we have been focused on the structure of this building.

Councillor Patterson said he would be putting Sean and Johns' names forward for volunteer of the year awards and asked about the 1-year extension.

Mr. Trickett said they are already past the 1 year, we are year 2, the ice is in jeopardy for next year.

Councillor Patterson said no matter what is spent, its still a 47 year old building and asked if they thought about constructing a new building?

Mr. Trickett agreed and said yes we have and that's where the smart money is.

Councillor Longva agreed with Councillor Patter and said, throwing money at an old building is not good, better to construct a new building.

Councillor Longva asked if there are there any bigger corporate groups that would invest, like NS Power did with the Emera Centre.

Mr. MacSween said they would love to have a new rink/building but what goes in there, that's why we want to get guidance from Council as to what should go in there.

Mr. Trickett said now that we know how bad it is, we are ready to go out for community engagement and funding options and we hope Council goes on this journey with us.

Councillor MacLeod mentioned she was on the board for the rink and thanked them for coming here to talk to Council and said it was important for the community to step up and see what the best direction for this project is.

Mr. Trickett said there has been a lot of positive response without us even going out and asking for funding so that is encouraging.

Councillor MacNeil thanked Sean and John and thanked them for the tour of the rink last spring.

Warden Morrison thanked Sean and John. Warden Morrison suggested he likes the idea of a multi purpose facility and Council would like to work with the Highland Civic Centre to move along with this project. Warden Morrison asked Council for a commitment and Council is in agreement to work



Victoria County Municipal Council
October 4, 2021

with the rink going forward. Warden Morrison said at this point he can't say what that looks like tonight but we will work with all levels of government and first nations.

It was decided that Council will form a committee and can assist with some resources and encouraged John and Sean to meet with EDO Erica Holgate.

Steve Kerr asked who owns the rink?

Mr. Trickett said the rink board is working on a 1974 association model. It is a public facility.

Steve Kerr said that it absolutely has to be a multipurpose building.

RECESS

Warden Morrison called for a recess at 6:17pm. Reconvened at 6:40pm.

Warden Morrison mentioned that a Rink Committee has been formed and members of that Committee are Councillor Longva, Councillor MacNeil, Warden Morrison and Erica Holgate. When necessary, CAO MacEachen and other staff will attend meetings as needed.

Councillor Patterson made the motion to accept the newly formed Rink Committee, seconded by Councillor MacNeil.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the October 4th, 2021, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Dauphinee and seconded by Councillor Organ that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of October 4th, 2021, be approved.

Motion carried.



Victoria County Municipal Council
October 4, 2021

CAO REPORT

Old Business

Lester Tingley is expecting to get to Ingonish Survey next week.

Heavy Garbage is now complete - staff did an excellent job South, great job also by contractor North and our on site staff all did an excellent job.

Discussions have started with EDPAC about Baddeck PAC Info on Baddeck Planning Advisory Committee – once CAO gets the How To's to make that resolution she will bring that to council. It might just be an Area Advisory Committee rather than a Planning one but it still has to be through Council so a resolution may be brought to Council once she has more information.

CAO MacEachen is also exploring ideas with the CCA program that Councillor MacDonald discussed before.

Councillor MacLeod asked if CAO got an update from CBVRCE regarding the patching for the bus garage in Baddeck.

CAO MacEachen responded that she has not heard anything yet but will be in touch to get a timeline as to when that work will be completed.

New Business

Senior Safety

Rick Hansen Training

Transit Fare Assistance - will be handing out pamphlets to referral sources/bus drivers

Rec/AL

Group in Iona using the Special Events Task Force.

Will be attending Huckle Buckle event to talk to residents about Community Placemaking

Mental Health 1st Aid - training happening in BSL this week

Looking to do winter snowshoe hikes this winter

Discussing possible Hallowe'en events

Working on getting word out for Trails funding for this year.



Victoria County Municipal Council
October 4, 2021

Looking to offer a babysitting course to young residents.

Dalem Lake walks are going well.

Possible after school partnership with BOLD - exploring Wilderness workshop.

Gender equity/Ski in school.

Bay St. Lawrence 1st aid - only 6 showed up - looking in to cause. Councillor MacDonald heard that there was as lack of messaging around it. He also heard from those who did take it, said it was excellent.

Meeting with new Inveraray Rec Director on winter initiatives.

Finance

Amendment to Community Grant Application will be coming forward soon

Property tax - all bills are past due - if you haven't received contact us ASAP

Public Works

Still tweaking our definitions for acceptance/prohibition of garbage - however - If Environment says we can't take it, we can't take it.

"Mixed Residual"- doesn't not mean throw everything in a bag... - we will be clarifying

Will be installing a Traffic light at the Scale House

Invoices will be mailed soon on Landfill charges

RFP Snow removal for specifics sites will be happening soon

Water bills went out last week

Tourism

Trails- update prior to next Council

RFP for next section of Trail going out soon

Meeting with DPW/DOE on Trail issues

Speaking with Ross Ferry Stewardship Group on Trail development

Bras D'or Lakes Biosphere Reserve - Speaking on Trails Development - Oct 23 Radio interview this am on Mountain Bike update



Victoria County Municipal Council
October 4, 2021

Keltic Lodge staying open this year

Past weekend was "Strange but Busy"

Food/Accommodations will be an issue, traffic hasn't slowed down yet

Other

Courthouse Review happening, JS Held group will be meeting virtually to detail findings.

Have a job posting out for the IT director for the 5 municipalities.

Upland meeting with EDPC and Council on October 20th.

Anniversary year for Council, one year ago today since the election.

Vaccination Report

Staff are proposing, if for a medical reason you cannot be vaccinated, you will be subject to 2 rapid tests a week, if not vaccinated by mid to late December we will requesting an unpaid leave until vaccinated. CAO asked for Council's thoughts on this.

Councillor MacDonald asked if most of our staff were vaccinated, and CAO MacEachen responded that about 90% are vaccinated.

Warden Morrison requested that the vaccination policy be sent out to Council. It is a recommendation of staff and the CAO that we go forward with this. Warden Morrison said Council should also follow the same policy as well.

The proposed policy is for all staff, committee members and councillors and individuals accessing programs, services at Municipal sites.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Dauphinee and seconded by Councillor MacLeod to accept the recommended vaccination policy for the Municipality of the County of Victoria.

Motion carried.



Victoria County Municipal Council
October 4, 2021

TAXATION UPDATE

As of today, we have \$2,007,138 total outstanding, compared to \$2,488,528 this time last year for a total difference of \$481,391 ahead.

Current outstanding is in a great place being ahead of last year by \$244,614 with \$1,510,550 in current as of today vs. \$1,755,164 in current this time last year.

Arrears also continues to be steadily ahead by \$236,777 better than last year with \$496,587 in arrears outstanding for this year vs. \$733,364 this time last year.

Things are still ticking along the process for upcoming tax sales. Great progress continues to be shown so ongoing kudos to the tax department.

The Tax and Finance department also wanted to mention a new practice they've put into place. They forwarded a portion of the most recent tax bills out to Horizon Achievement Centre in Sydney for folding, stuffing and sealing because a few different issues they were facing at the time. This ended up being a great solution for all parties involved so they are going to continue this relationship for our future arrears letters, bills, etc. <https://www.horizon-ns.ca/products-services/mail-services-and-printing/>

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

District 1

Councillor MacNeil had the following Public Works concerns:

- Thank you for temporary fix with shoulder issue in Ottawa Brook.
- Also patching work throughout Little Narrows and Hazeldale has begun.
- Always in contact with Steve and Mark on local concerns.

Councillor MacNeil also requested a meeting to be scheduled with Steve MacDonald for Winter Ready program. CAO MacEachen indicated she would get this scheduled.

District 2

Councillor MacLeod nothing new to report only that she was glad to see the Big Farm Road patching being done.



Victoria County Municipal Council
October 4, 2021

District 3

Warden Morrison requested the crosswalk and the bottom of Fownes Drive to be repainted and be extended to the school property.

Warden Morrison also mentioned that the Department of Public Works did some RIM work on the sidewalks which was good but they neglected the potholes on the some of the streets, in particular the holes at Hilltop Crescent still need to be repaired.

Warden Morrison said he spoke with MLA Keith Bain and he said that he has spoken to the Minister of Transportation in regards to the speed reduction at the Tim's/Irving on HWY 205 near Baddeck.

District 4

Councillor Longva got very excited when she saw the brush cutter going by.

District 5

Councillor Patterson had nothing to report.

District 6

Deputy Warden Dauphinee had nothing new to report other than one outstanding issue that he will be in touch with Steve tomorrow.

District 7

Councillor Organ mentioned the flooding at 239 New Haven Road due to heavy rains and a blocked culvert. Steve has been contacted and he let his crew know.

District 8

Councillor MacDonald had the following Public Works concerns:

- Requested the number for Steve MacDonald.
- Still no shoulder gravel work in various locations from last list.
- Cape North hill washes out not safe for pedestrians to walk or cars to pull off.
- Speed issue in South Harbour.



Victoria County Municipal Council
October 4, 2021

- Coming out of Cape Breton Highlands National Park the speed goes up to 80 Km's and it goes right into residential and businesses. This has been an issue for many years (can we ask someone to look into this. Safety personnel never has looked into it. (Bernie Murphy)
- Update on Dingwall Road, it was surveyed and road counters were in place, locals are looking for information or an update.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District 1

Councillor MacNeil had the following district concerns:

- Requested a letter be sent to the new Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development and cc MLA Keith Bain about bussing policy for rural Nova Scotia and have road classifications changed in the policy so children can be picked up by school buses and recognize that rural roads do not have the appropriate shoulders and maintenance so children of all ages should have the choice to be picked up by school buses to obtain their education.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil and seconded by Councillor Longva that a letter be sent to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development to raise concerns over the bussing policy and how it affects rural students in Nova Scotia.

Motion Carried.

- Councillor MacNeil was in contact with the local MLA's office on the Ferry Pass Reimbursement program. People did not have their original passes but did save their receipt and were concerned they would not get the reimbursement because on the form it states must have the passes. Dianne in MLA Keith Bain's office was in contact with the Public Works office in charge of the program and they confirmed that an original receipt with the pass number on it will qualify for the reimbursement.
- Any update on Streetlight for South Cove Causeway.

Warden Morrison suggested to contact Mary Black. Steff said she will do so.

District 2

Councillor MacLeod requested a streetlight at 315 Big Baddeck Road.

It was moved by Councillor MacLeod and seconded by Councillor Longva for a streetlight at 315 Big Baddeck Road.

Motion Carried.



Victoria County Municipal Council
October 4, 2021

Councillor MacLeod requested a crosswalk at Fownes Drive, it is close to the school and a dangerous spot for kids.

District 3

Warden Morrison requested a letter be sent to NSHA to have them confirm what they agreed to when they met with Council on Oct 4th. He requested that they outline how and when they will host virtual town halls in Victoria County, they should be getting this messaging out themselves, they need to reach out and engage with the residents.

Warden Morrison requested that address the following concerns:

- Provide a max number of doctors that can be recruited to potentially replace Dr's Murray and Genge given the size of their current practice.
- Outline how and when you will host virtual or COVID-19 restricted live town halls in Victoria County to provide an update on the status of health care.
- Provide an update on current and future changes of medical services and health care delivery at larger facilities and how these changes will impact Victoria County health care facilities.
- Respond to the concern that ambulatory services are stressed for coverage and what is being proposed to assist EHS to improve service delivery.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Dauphinee and seconded by Councillor that a letter be sent to NSHA representatives, Madonna MacDonald, Dr. O'Brien, Angela MacArthur and Brett MacDougall and the hospital facility managers from Baddeck and Neil's Harbour, outlining the above concerns.

Motion Carried.

District 4

Councillor Longva asked for a follow up regarding the ferry cables and CAO confirmed we haven't heard anything back as of yet.



Victoria County Municipal Council
October 4, 2021

It was moved by Councillor Longva and seconded by Councillor MacLeod to send a letter to Department of Public Works asking when the Englishtown ferry will be fixed.

Motion Carried.

District 5

Councillor Patterson made a motion, seconded by Deputy Warden Dauphinee for a streetlight at 4346 Kempt Head Road.

Motion Carried.

A house in Big Bras d'Or, is still standing after a fire there on June 12, 2021. in Big Bras d'Or, Councillor Patterson asked who he needs to contact to get it taken down.

Warden Morrison said to fill out an unsightly premises form through EDP.

District 6

It was moved by Deputy Warden Dauphinee and seconded by Councillor Organ that a letter be re-sent to Department of Health requesting replacement of the Highland Manor. CC' Minister Adam's, Minister Thompson and MLA Bain.

Motion Carried.

Motion to CBVRCE to have a sign replaced seconded by Organ.

Motion Carried.

Motion to send a letter to Minister Masland with transportation to relook at replacing the ferries with bridges at both Iona and Englishtown, seconded by MacNeil.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee also requested an update from the Trails project.

District 7

Councillor Organ requested a children playing sign.

Councillor Organ asked again why the land lots in the White Point Road are not for sale, she had another inquiry to purchase a lot and CAO reconfirmed that those lots are not currently for sale.

Councillor Organ said that the No Parking sign that was put in at the White Point area is working.



Victoria County Municipal Council
October 4, 2021

Warden Morrison commented that he forgot to mention that he received notice that the Adventure Tourism Opportunity are doing a release of their strategy for the Cape Breton Highlands featuring a presentation by an Adventure and Tourism Specialist and that is tonight at 7pm at the North Highlands Community Centre. Warden Morrison said it would be good to have some representatives from Council there.

District 8

Councillor MacDonald made a motion and seconded by Councillor Organ for a letter of support from Council to FutureWorx that will address the need of CCAs in Victoria County and to explore hosting educational courses to attract people to the profession.

Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councillor Patterson requested an EOI (Expression of Interest) form to be completed by CAO MacEachen for the ACTing Collectively opportunity that has an innovative approach to gathering local data to identify supports and resources needed to age well.

CAO MacEachen commented that this project is run by Northwood already and that Northwood run Victoria County Home Support so she will be meeting with our Senior Safety Officer, so we are not overlapping with Victoria County Home Care.

Councillor Patterson Fraser made a motion and seconded by Councillor MacNeil that we consider applying to the EOI, pending investigation by the CAO.

Motion Carried.

Councillor MacNeil wanted to thank the County's Public Works staff for heavy garbage collection.

MEETINGS

EDPC October 20th, 2021 at 5pm.

COUNCIL MEETING

Next Council meeting is November 15th, 2021.



Victoria County Municipal Council
October 4, 2021

ADJOURN

It was moved by Councillor Patterson to adjourn.

The Municipality of the County of Victoria County council session was adjourned at 7:28pm.