



Victoria County Municipal Council
November 29th, 2021

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held via Zoom on November 29th, 2021, at 5:00pm with Deputy Warden Larry Dauphinee in the Chair.

Present Were:

- District #1- Paul MacNeil
- District #2- Perla MacLeod
- 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
- Alix Redden, CFO
- Stephanie MacLeod, Recorder
- Erica Holgate, EDO
- Dan Coffin, Tourism Officer

Absent:

- District #3- Bruce Morrison, Warden



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Deputy Warden Dauphinee 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

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

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

Motion Carried.

SWEB ENERGY PRESENTATION – JASON PARISE

Mr. Parise went over his PowerPoint presentation and provided an overview of the company (SWEB) and went over how locations are chosen for their wind projects.

Mr. Parise commented that the project in Cape Breton is highly unlikely to be included in the current RFP. The power grid is too congested at this time. This project is at the lowest priority for bid.

Deputy Warden opened the floor up to questions.

Councillor MacNeil asked Jason if they have been in contact with the Native population as that area is close to their moose hunting area.

Trying to be in contact with them since last fall. He tries to provide a PID to every community and asks for feedback. He has not yet heard back from them.

Councillor MacLeod said she attended the community engagement session and asked if there was a good turn out?

Mr. Parise said it was a good turn out, about 35 people, typically more than what we see.

Councillor MacLeod said she checked out the location for this and there was a concern because of our tourism strategy for that area. Do you have a second location chosen in Cape Breton?

Mr. Parise said no, not at this time and asked to see the tourism strategy as he was not aware of it. Jason will contact CAO and she will provide you with some information.

Councillor Longva had similar concerns of Councillor MacLeod. There are proposed trails through that area. Are you able put them in industrial parks?



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Mr. Parise said it depends if there are homes in that area. If the project doesn't fit with current land use we consider that when deciding if it will be a viable project.

Councillor Patterson asked about the technological advances of windmills and has there been many advances.

Mr. Parise said yes there have been many advances, blade increases, hub heights, the nacelle (generator) and advancements in sound pollution and they are more productive.

Councillor MacDonald is it generally municipal lands you look at for these projects is crown land considered as well?

This current proposed project is on crown lands, it is not easy to get crown land. Most of our projects are on privately owned land.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee said to please reach out to our CAO for further information and commented on tourism and our concerns around these projects.

Mr. Parise said he is a big user of trails as well so he understands the concerns and will engage accordingly and will factor into a go or no go for the project.

CAO MacEachen confirmed that Cape Breton scored low and Mr. Parise said yes and CAO asked at what point do you know if it will be considered later on.

If the province takes coal plants come offline sooner, then Cape Breton would score higher and we would know this by February.

CAO MacEachen mentioned the new proposed lookoffs and said the Trails group would be in touch with Mr. Parise

Deputy Warden Dauphinee asked if Mr. Parise had a copy of our windmill bylaw and Mr. Parise said he will double check that he has the most up to date version.



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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 15th, 2021, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Longva and seconded by Councillor MacLeod that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of November 15th, 2021, be approved.

Motion carried.

CAO REPORT

Old Business

- AMANS will be meeting with NS power about the displeasure about it.
- Upland sessions are happening this week. Attended a few
- Looking into the Grant Match program
- Housing survey is in Completion stages
- Dept PW (former TIR) is scheduled for Dec 15
- Sent a request to Develop NS on having public meetings - awaiting response
- Received a quote on sidewalk work in Ingonish and this should be brought up at a future Budget meeting as the cost is quite substantial.

New Business

Finance

- Draft non consolidating statements
- Employment Symposium meeting.

Rec/AL

- Dingwall still waiting on ACOA funding.
- Solar light options, getting quotes on those for around the walking track.
- Looking in the Cape North area to see if they are interested in a First Aid Course.
- Babysitting course at BOLD on December 11 is full.
- Presenting on the indoor walking track in Cape North and the outdoor walking track in Dingwall.
- Health Promoting Steering Committee meetings.
- Hike NS waiting to hear back on 3 potential hikes.
- Active Smarter kids pilot meeting, hoping to partner with Rankin.
- Meeting with the Accessibility Centre at CBU, looking at accessibility opportunities



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EDO

- Very busy with phone calls.
- Cape Smokey hosted the Minister of Economic Development, pushed Broadband issues, the minister was very good, energetic and optimistic.
- Baddeck Rink community engagement to coordinate schedules, hoping to do Monday December 13 at 1pm engagement in Baddeck session in Wagmatcook in the Grand Hall at the Cultural Centre and Tuesday December 14th at 6:30pm at the Bras d'Or Yacht Club in Baddeck. There should be engagement with the younger generation too; ideas of maybe using a paper mural, kids can put down what they want to see. Engaged the Cape Breton Eagles to come and participate in a skate at the rink and that is tentatively scheduled for December 12th from 2:30-4:30pm.
- Almost finished with Economic Development course.
- Housing survey is going through edits.
- Another land developer interested in land in Ingonish
- Stories of Belonging event was great. Perla did a great job as well.

Tourism

- Working with NS Tourism, they are changing their website. Rebuilding their backend data feed.
- DCBA starting an innovation committee.
- Tourism scenic areas, a list of places where we would put windmills, quarries, etc. Dan can provide guidelines from a tourism perspective.
- Baddeck Pump Track area, Adam Shore was contacted about this, we would have interest in helping with this project.
- Sailing Tourism meeting.
- Placemaking, doing more data gathering.
- Trails; RFP closed for Section 1 and 2. Received 3 proposals. Put a recommendation together, process was solid and moved forward and work has commenced.

Public Works

- We are working on the water line and working with crews down there. Parts of our line have been completely destroyed and waiting for the road to be repaired to get a new water line.
- Still need to purchase generators. The electrical needs to be upgraded for some of the sites in order to hook up the generators.
- 3 new hires, one is starting in the new year.
- Dingwall position has not been filled but is still open.
- All sites are prepped for winter.
- Still waiting on the scale light, will probably be a couple of weeks.



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Senior Safety

- Meeting with a local senior regularly, its been going very well.
- Newsletter, quite a few email subscriptions. Will have a couple of mailing ones as well.
- Creating an email list serve, it may not be possible, will wait on the new IT person to potentially help out.
- Still participating in the Rick Hansen Accessibility Training.
- NS Senior Safety Coordinators are meeting in Wolfville. Good for professional development.
- Partnership with VCHSS for Canada Day.
- Accessibility Committee and Age Friendly Committee, we need to tell them how we are going to spend the \$25,000 for the ACTing Collectively. No leadership on this, Cassandra wants a process and we need a meeting.
- Wants to put in for a New Horizons Grant for this year.
- Grant to utilize the seniors lunch model to other community groups.
- Going to be a new grant for low-income seniors for home maintenance, snow plowing, etc.
- Looking to help with storm preparedness for seniors.

Other

- Village had a Motion to start the dissolution process. Meeting scheduled for December 2, 2021 the Inveraray.
- Extremely busy with Damage done during storm
- Working with the Province for another Municipal Moderniaztion project to attract Building Inspectors.

Councillor MacNeil asked about Carla leaving the Cape Breton Partnership and CAO MacEachen said yes she is, she is going to Marconi.

Councillor Longva asked about the Village meeting and asked if it is open to the public. CAO said as far as she knows it is public but for any other questions, please contact the Village office.



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CAO MacEachen gave an update on garbage collection and the routes that are affected:

Wednesday's Collection Route (Barb/Perla/Bruce)

- Portions of the Oregon and West Tarbot Rd. (we don't go down the Rear Barrachois so the washout doesn't affect collecting these residents).

Thursday's Collection Route (Jackie/Norman)

- From Warr Rd. (including both unnamed roads on either side), Stoney's Lane and Fairview Rd. up to the NH Depot.

Friday's Collection Route (Paul/Perla)

- Barra Glen Rd.

RECESS

Deputy Warden Dauphinee called for a 10 minute recess at 5:56. Reconvened at 6:09.

TAXATION UPDATE

As of today, we are at \$1,432,484 total outstanding, compared to \$1,952,549 this time last year for a total difference of **\$520,065** ahead – over half a million ahead.

For current outstanding we are ahead of last year by **\$325,148** with \$977,736 as of today vs. \$1,302,884 in current this time last year.

Arrears outstanding is at **\$194,917** better than last year with \$454,747 for this year vs. \$649,665 this time last year.

Reminder letters went out, sending a new batch this week.

The December 14th tax sale by tender is on our website and is being updated weekly (if needed). It includes eight properties and just a FYI that four of them have had notices physically posted on site (#s 4, 5, 6, 8). The second ad will be in Cape Breton Post on Saturday, December 11th.

Also, as a reminder, the next tax sale will be a public auction here at the Courthouse on January 18th and also includes eight properties. We will have another tax sale soon after this and have already started receiving properties from the next batch back from legal.

Just one new thing to note - Village tax bills were sent out by our staff on November 19th and we are collecting payments on behalf of the Village.



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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

District 1

Councillor MacNeil had the following Public Works concerns:

- Damage Done from Flooding;
 - Barra Glen Road – Number of areas culverts failed and east end repairs need but Beaver dams throughout the area
 - Reed Point Road – Entrance by the Track
 - St Columba Road – Number of areas especially at Nash’s Hill
 - Gillis point Road – Patching lifted and on side of road
 - Shoulders of road throughout District
 - Areas on the John Neil George Road
 - All Dirt/Gravel roads should be Graded again
- Culverts throughout District have to be looked at. They are either plugged or too small for the times. Even the new ones that were put in on the upgrades to Barra Glen and Red point are too small.

District 2

Councillor MacLeod thanked the Department, requested updates on the roads, bridge collapsed, west side middle river is in really bad shape.

Councillor MacLeod also mentioned the following concerns regarding areas that were damaged in the floods;

- Gold Brook bridge collapse
- Side roads in middle river will need gravel.
- McCharles Cross and Old Margaree road have big potholes and need gravel.
- Zion Road needs gravel, there are washouts.
- West side Big Baddeck Road are full of potholes and washouts, will need be repair in total (gravel, ditch etc.)
- The bridge in the Manse in Big Baddeck, needs to be inspected, the armour stone is not being replaced and there are signs of erosion, next flooding will occur in the spring and residents are very concerned.
- 2926 Cabot Trail - ongoing issue since two years now when they fixed the Cabot Trail road, they left the site damaged and Mr. Paul Cobhan is waiting for answers and now the lane is damaged. Councillor MacLeod needs clarification if the road is private or public.



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District 3

Councillor MacLeod read Warden Morrison's concerns and they were the following;

- Upper Queen Street at the power substation is completely washed out.
- Mile Brook culvert on Hilltop Crescent is blocked with debris and is flooding the adjoining properties.

District 4

Councillor Longva thanked Steve MacDonald and all the crews. Tarbot Road residents requested Councillor Longva to pass on their gratitude to Steve and his crews.

Councillor Longva got a call from a resident on the Oregon Road that said Phillips Brook is in bad shape, it is not washed out but is very damaged and the resident hopes once the other major repairs are done, that work will be done there as well.

Councillor Longva said there is a brook on the Meadow Road, just south of John Montgomery's, is in need of repair, they need a guardrail placed on the bridge, there is nothing stopping a vehicle from driving over the side.

Councillor Longva also thanked the Department for the new road sign that was put up at the Gaelic College hill.

Councillor Longva inquired about the light at the Baddeck Bay intersection to see if it was ever fixed.

Councillor Longva requested lines be painted on the new section of road by the Englishtown ferry and Steve informed her that they are just waiting for the rain to stop.

District 5

Councillor Patterson had no new issues to report.

District 6

Deputy Warden Dauphinee said they have seen no one in Ingonish. The Department is not contacting the Deputy Warden at all and the Department is not contacting the local contractors in the area. Its unacceptable and the Deputy Warden wants updates, and he wants the local contractors contacted.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee also mentioned that Doucette's road was cut off and he made the decision to get a contractor to put some gravel on the road because there were 8 homes cut off.



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Deputy Warden Dauphinee said south of Smokey, the shoulders are completely gone, they are 3 to 4 feet deep and he is very concerned as they are still experiencing very heavy rain and he is nervous that will undermine the road even more.

Deputy Warden was told that the Province has been here to inspect the bridges and he hopes that information is accurate because over the next few days there will school buses passing over them once again.

District 7

Councillor Organ appreciates all the workers and requested more updates. CAO MacEachen has also reached out to Steve for updates and hasn't heard back anything yet.

Councillor Organ said that residents are concerned about the erosion along the water, residents are requesting armour stone to be put back in.

District 8

Councillor MacDonald has nothing new to report at this time.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District 1

Councillor MacNeil was looking for an update on the water study. CAO said we are waiting for the financial statements and then the consultants will be coming to council to present.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil and seconded by Councillor Organ to take \$1000.00 from District 1 budget for the local food bank.

Motion carried.

District 2

Councillor MacLeod send a note to Belinda Garland and BOLD to thank them for the parade and Christmas events and thank you to our staff for decorating the Rav 4 for the parade.



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It was moved by Councillor MacLeod and seconded by Councillor MacNeil to send a condolence card to the Eyking Family for the loss of their father John Eyking.

Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor MacLeod and seconded by Councillor MacNeil to take \$1000.00 from District 2 Budget for the Middle River Fire Department.

Motion carried.

Councillor MacLeod requested that Districts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 to each take money out of their district budget, around \$100.00 for family skating for 5 Saturdays (5 weeks). All agreed and Councillor MacLeod will send the information via email.

District 3

Councillor MacLeod read district concerns for Warden Morrison. Warden Morrison acknowledged and thanked Belinda Garland and committee for organizing the parade and festivities in Baddeck this past weekend.

District 4

Councillor Longva thanked Lyle Donovan for all the work he has been doing helping residents.

Councillor Longva said that Lyle Donovan got a letter from former Councillor, Merrill MacInnis stating that he thought it would be a nice gesture to send \$1000.00 to the post storm/flooding cleanup efforts in BC.

Councillor Longva said a resident requested streetlights on the Barrachois Road to see where the new road is going.

Councillor Longva asked for updates regarding the bussing issue from previous the Council meeting and the unsightly premises house in Tarbot.

Councillor Longva said a resident is asking if Committee meeting Minutes are posted anywhere and the CAO said no, we currently don't have them online but that resident can contact the County for that information.

Deputy Warden instructed the CAO to look into the possible donation to BC and follow up with Council.

CAO MacEachen responded back to Councillor Longva about the property in Tarbot and said that John Bain is coming to Council on December 15th to talk about it.

Deputy Warden also responded to Councillor Longva about the streetlights and said anything up and above her yearly quota for lights should be requested through the Department of Public Works to



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see if they are interested in putting lights up. Councillor Longva indicated that she did not have any lights left and said she will add this request to Steve's list.

District 5

Councillor Patterson had no concerns to report.

District 6

Deputy Warden Dauphinee thanked Tommy Symes and Adam for their boat and Coop Fisheries, Breton Air and Parks Canada for all their assistance.

It was moved by Deputy Warden and seconded by Councillor Longva to send a letter of congratulations for retirement to Leona Stockley, she was the librarian in Ingonish for 28 years.

Motion Carried.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee asked the CAO if she received any updates regarding the rising cost of the RCMP and/or what the increases will be.

CAO MacEachen indicated that she has not heard anything directly yet but it was brought up at an AMAN's meeting and she said usually the increase is around 3 or 3.5% but based on negotiations that they are in, that increase will probably be sizable.

Councillor Patterson commented that the rising cost of the RCMP for municipalities was a major topic at the FCM Committee meetings he attended last week.

Deputy Warden also requested that the Housing Authority be contacted and a meeting with Council to be set for the new year.

District 7

Councillor Organ getting a lot of phone calls from residents, they feel they are not getting informed soon enough.

CAO MacEachen mentioned that anytime there is a scheduled outage we let people know but currently we are in a state of disrepair and our crews are working as hard as they can to make repairs under the current conditions. She also encouraged residents to sign up for Voyent as well.



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Councillor Organ mentioned the visit from the Premier and thanked the people who have opened up cottages to nurses and hospital staff.

Thanked Lewis MacDonald for his assistance with the fire trucks, if it went below freezing, Lewis said the fire trucks could be parked at the school garages.

District 8

Councillor MacDonald asked if we could reach out to Parks Canada to see if a signage board could be placed at the intersection in Cape North now that this is the main route from Neil's Harbour. It is especially important now since 511 is lagging with updated information, some times it is a couple of days behind.

Councillor MacDonald mentioned that the Voyent Alert number is coming from an Alberta number and asked if that could be changed because some residents don't or won't answer a long distance or unknown number.

CAO said no, we can't change that number because that is the company that we contracted to do it and they are an Alberta company. CAO said that residents should add that number as a contact in their phones as Voyent Alert so they know that number when it calls.

Councillor MacDonald thanked all the hospital and EHS staff.

CAO MacEachen on behalf of Warden Morrison passed on a thank you to Councillor MacLeod for her work in the parade.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transit Committee

There is one part time and one full time candidates for a driver in the North.

MOTIONS

Municipal Grants Policy

It was moved by Councillor MacLeod and seconded by Councillor MacNeil to accept the new municipal grants policy.

Motion carried.



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External Organization Tax Exemption Bylaw

It was moved by Councillor MacLeod and seconded by Councillor Organ to repeal the External Organization Tax Exemption Bylaw.

Motion carried.

COUNCIL MEETING

Next Council meeting is December 15th, 2021 at 1:30pm.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Councillor Organ to adjourn.

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