



**Victoria County Municipal Council**  
May 30, 2022

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held in Council Chambers in Baddeck on May 30 2022, at 2:00pm with Warden Bruce Morrison in the Chair.

Present Were:

District #1- Paul MacNeil

District #2- Perla MacLeod

District #3- Bruce Morrison, Warden

District #4- Barbara Longva

District #5- Fraser Patterson

District #7- Jackie Organ

District #8- Norman MacDonald

Also present were:

Leanne MacEachen, CAO

Alix Redden, CFO

Stephanie MacLeod, Recorder

Dan Coffin, Tourism Officer

Ursula Melski, Communications

Erica Holgate, EDO

Absent: District #6- Larry Dauphinee, Deputy Warden for medical reasons.



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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 with a minor change with adding the Courthouse Archives discussion after Ms. Kerr's presentation.

***On Motion of Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacLeod that the Agenda for May 30, 2022, be approved.***

***Motion Carried.***

Warden Morrison made mention of the Budget meeting that was held prior to Council and that resulted in the following motions:

***On Motion of Councillor MacLeod, seconded by Councillor Longva to approve the 2022/23 operating budget with revenues of \$14,127,200 and expenses of \$14,127,200 as presented.***

***Motion Carried.***

***On Motion of Councillor Organ, seconded by Councillor MacNeil to set 2022/23 tax rates at \$1.22 for residential and resource, \$2.12 for commercial and \$0.25/acre for forest acreage and assign a property tax bill due date of August 1, 2022***

***Motion Carried.***

***On Motion of Councillor MacLeod, seconded by Councillor Longva to accept recommendation from budget committee to approve community grants for 2022/23 (some pending follow-up) totalling \$255,700 and property tax relief totalling \$51,114***

***Motion Carried.***



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**COURTHOUSE ARCHIVES – DONNIE MACAULAY AND BILLY STEPHENS**

Mr. MacAulay requested the Library Society be able to take the materials from here prior to the archival materials being moved to the Highland Village.

CAO MacEachen is open to have the group go through the materials when the Highland Village is here but not without the Highland Village present. We need to protect the liability of the material.

Warden Morrison said we will contact the group when the Highland Village is going to be present here at the Courthouse to start collecting the material.

**ACTIVE LIVING AND RECREATION PRESENTATION – Lydia Kerr**

Ms. Kerr went over her department's strategy. Some highlights include:

- 1) Awareness and Information
  - a. Placemaking
  - b. Accessibility
  - c. Great cooperation with the Communications department for awareness and promotion of events
  - d. Surveys were very informative
- 2) Partnerships and Collaboration
  - a. Great support within all Departments
  - b. Funding partnerships
  - c. Removing red tape for funding streams within the application process
- 3) Access and Inclusion
  - a. Started an Accessibility Committee and started access and inclusion work for County owned infrastructure.
  - b. Broadening the definition of access and inclusion
- 4) Infrastructure
  - a. Trail Development
  - b. Placemaking
  - c. Community Garden

One of the Departments' strategic priorities was Committed to Green initiatives and partnered with ACAP Cape Breton, looking to partner on a few projects.

Warden Morrison opened it up to questions.

Councillor Patterson said congratulations and thanked her for all the work you have done and in particular the walking group at Dalem Lake.



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Councillor MacNeil thanked Lydia for her presentation and appreciated the collaboration with all the departments. Councillor MacNeil also thanked her for her work with application processes.

Councillor MacDonald thanked Lydia and thanked her for her Placemaking work in Dingwall and her work with non-profits.

Councillor Organ asked if she ever spoke with the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Association to develop their site and Lydia said they did apply for an ACOA fund that wasn't granted but they were looked at for a potential Placemaking site. She also said that she would be open to help with some other funding opportunities.

Councillor Longva has been on several of Lydia's hikes, and they have been great, and the Indian Brook Placemaking site has been coming along nicely, and thanked Lydia for her work.

Councillor MacLeod thanked Lydia for her work and asked about the Clean Foundation and asked about the intern that was hired and she said that Kelly at Public Works is working with this intern, but they are working together on some initiatives, such as beach cleanups.

Warden Morrison appreciates the update and glad to see this Department flourish and asked Lydia about a playground area in Baddeck and asked if anyone approached her yet and Lydia said she hasn't had any contact with them but would be happy to chat with them if Warden Morrison wanted to let them know that.

CAO asked about volunteer recognition nominations and Lydia said a card and gas cards were sent out to those nominees. Ryan Costello with the Ingonish Development Society for the Provincial Volunteer Awards.

Ms. Kerr said groups and organizations are having a difficult time recruiting members, so she is looking at incentive programs to help with this.

Councillor MacNeil asked if the Beach Cleanup group in Iona could contact her, and she said yes, absolutely.

Warden Morrison recognized Ms. Kerr for her work with the Accessibility Committee.



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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the May 9, 2022, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was presented for approval.

***On Motion of Councillor MacLeod, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the Victoria County Municipal Council Minutes of May 9, 2022, be approved.***

***Motion Carried.***

**CAO REPORT**

***Action Items***

- Heavy garbage completed, many thanks to all our staff and contractors!
- Several AAC/MBR/LIC open house sessions have taken place - will update Council when we have info
- Ingonish land - still waiting for POL to update a PID, then need a title search
- ReUse Centre - giving 2 weeks to a random group that didn't get picked
- Solar Speed signs - as of right now, we are waiting on these, as cost prohibitive
- Babysitting course - Schools Plus are arranging to do a course, info will be coming out
- NSLC is ok with the street name change. Awaiting next steps to change Campbell Street to Jessie Wong Drive
- Fownes Drive has been cleaned up following the EDPC order

***New Business***

***Communications***

- Accessibility page is up and running on the website
- Social Media campaigns/designs- keep checking our Facebook and news, and website
- Info on Commercial waste tags will be posted soon
- Household Hazardous Waste will be posted as well
- Accessibility campaign, Red Shirt Day June 1<sup>st</sup>

***Tourism***

- Winter market readiness report is being finalized.
- Hearing a lot of concerns from operators about customer service, food and reduced hours.
- A lot of jobs available at not for profits for students and young adults



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- Congratulate the organizers to the Cabot Trail Relay. Nice to see them back and a great kick starter to the tourism season
- June 6 a best practise mission from Ontario tourism operators will be here at the Municipal Building
- Seawall Trail video coming out soon to show support for the trail
- ARIA for trail development is expected to be done by month end.
- Ingonish Trail has also been notified they need an ARIA assessment
- Trail work is progressing.

**Placemaking:**

- Iona received some placemaking funding for the wharf. Congrats to them for the work of the community group
- Scheduling a meeting for a potential committee to manage the Dingwall placemaking site

***Finance***

- Budget meetings are progressing
- water rate study is progressing
- Working on travel and remuneration structure for Council
- We need a new Audit Committee member from the public as Graeme Steele moved away
- Working on Year End
- Tax Sale ad was in the Cape Breton Post last Saturday.
- Tax Sale June 21, 2022 at 2:00pm by public auction at the Inverary Resort's MacAulay Conference Centre, 368 Shore Road, Baddeck.

***Public Works***

- Working on the tender for the C and D haul.
- Met with the Fishing Coalition looking at our rope. Looking at costs for separating good rope from bad rope. Will be shipped to Denmark which have strict shipping guidelines.
- Meat Cove discussions on a community garbage box
- Household Hazardous Waste event is coming up, June 4th and June 5th.
- Big water repair in Dingwall completed
- Oceanview Drive needs major attention.



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***Senior Safety***

- Confirmed with the NS Accessibility Directorate that updated accessible building code will only be applied to renovations and new builds
- Met with Maggie MacDonald, Inverness County Accessibility Co-ordinator
- Engaging Persons with Disabilities Training is being offered again.
- Shared Housing initiatives being looked at

***Other***

- Plan Upland Minimum Planning Standards Open Houses happening June 20-23 - HAVE YOUR SAY!!
- Regional EMO exercise completed May 18
- Conducted AMANS Executive Director interviews. Should be naming a new ED shortly
- Village Ministerial order - deadline has been extended.

**RECESS**

Warden Morrison called for a 10 Minute Recess.

**DISTRICT CONCERNS**

**District 1**

Councillor MacNeil requested a letter be written to thank Charlene Ellis' class at Rankin School of the Narrows for the roadside clean they did through Iona.

Councillor MacNeil thanked the heavy garbage crews and reminded residents that there are World Ocean's Day events this week and there was a Beach Cleanup on Saturday.

Councillor MacNeil said at the last CEPI meeting it was mentioned that there was a possibility of an offshore wind project and requested that they come to Council to present. Councillor MacNeil will have Mayor Beaton contact CAO and/or Steff to set that up.

Councillor MacNeil said the new Little Narrows Ferry should be up and running tomorrow evening but the signs indicating if the Ferry is operating or not are in bad shape and need to be replaced.

Councillor MacNeil mentioned that all the lights on the Grand Narrows bridge are finally working.

CAO MacEachen also wanted to remind Councillors to get in touch with Kelly Brett with Public Works to have the Clean Leadership intern assist with any beach cleanups in your districts.

**District 2**



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Councillor MacLeod asked about a donation for safe grad to the schools - is not going to be safe grad this year because COVID but they will use the money to cover some cost from the graduations. CAO said yes and we also do the bursaries as well.

***On Motion of Councillor MacLeod, seconded by Councillor Longva to write a letter to Cabot Trail Relay organizers to congratulate them for the excellent organization again, proud to be a sponsor and be ambassadors to welcome all the runners to our county."***

***Motion Carried.***

***On Motion of Councillor MacLeod, seconded by Councillor Longva to write a letter to Baddeck Lions Club to congratulate them for their volunteer works in our community, with out them will not be possible the success of the Cabot trial Relay."***

***Motion Carried.***

Councillor MacLeod wanted to remind residents about the Open House Sessions in Middle River Hall and Baddeck, tomorrow, May 31<sup>st</sup>. Staff will be in Middle River from 4:30pm to 6:00pm and at the Baddeck Courthouse from 7:00pm to 8:30pm.

Councillor MacLeod and Warden Morrison are meeting with DNRR about Usage Ban Falls and the River Trails and will update Council accordingly.

**District 3**

Warden Morrison thanked and congratulated the Cabot Trail Relay, racers, organizers and volunteers and one of the organizers wanted to pass along their compliments to Victoria County's, EMO officer, Lyle Donovan, very happy with his services for the race.

Warden Morrison also wanted to thank residents who participated in No Mow May.

**District 4**

Councillor Longva reminded residents that there is a meeting in Indian Brook June 2, 2022 for the Local Improvement By-Law, Accessibility and Boundary Review.

Councillor Longva thanked whoever cleaned up the look off on the highway behind Baddeck Bay.





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***On Motion of Councillor Longva, seconded by Councillor MacLeod to give \$1000.00 from District 4 budget to South Haven Community Hall.***

***Motion Carried.***

Councillor Longva said the road in New Harris Shore Road, near the Boy Scout Camp is in really bad shape.

Councillor Longva is receiving a lot of complaints about the damage to lots of highway signs over the winter. They are either down or badly damaged from the snowplows.

Councillor Longva was contacted by the resident that asked about getting the Old Big Harbour Road added on the Plaister Mines Road sign and Councillor Longva talked to Steve about that and he is looking into that

**District 5**

***On Motion of Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil to request a name change for 10631 and 10629 Kempt Head Road to Aker Woods.***

***Motion Carried.***

Councillor Patterson also wanted to warn residents to be on the look out for deer on the roads.

**District 7**

Councillor Organ received a call about disposing of an old car and informed the resident that our Transfer Station doesn't accept them.

Councillor Organ also wanted to remind residents to pick up the heavy garbage that was not collected.

**District 8**

Councillor MacDonald received calls about the road leading down Bay Road to St. Margaret's Bay Village

Councillor MacDonald also noted that at the recent Department of Works meeting we learned that the funding was increased so he would like Steve MacDonald to look into that road.



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Councillor MacDonald also brought up the channel in Dingwall. Last spring a dredging company dredged up a lot of metal debris and it was left in an area of the beach that is popular and used by families and youth. Councillor MacDonald was in touch with a Morley MacNeil, DNRR, who said they would remove it.

**MOTIONS/RESOLUTIONS**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

All has been sent out.

Minister, John Lohr sent a letter regarding the seasonal tax adjustment. He has sent it to his strategist to consider and will be reviewed at the MGA meetings.

**OTHER**

Policy Discussion with CFO.

Ms. Redden went over the following policies for Council consideration:

Remuneration

- Appointee = individual appointed by Council as a representative of the Municipality (i.e., Policy Advisory, Senior Safety, Audit Committee)
- Reimbursement of mileage for attendance at meetings of boards, committees or organizations to which appointed
- Honorariums?

Travel Allowance

Councillor Travel:

- Currently submit expense claims using milage rate for any travel outside of own district.
- Option for travel allowance added to monthly remuneration
- Based on distance from municipal office
- Propose calculation based on estimated # of trips (council sessions)
- Adjusted annually by cost of living
- Would be taxable benefit



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Reimbursable Travel

- Attendance at “agency” meeting to which Council as appointed the member (i.e., Library, CEPI)
- Travel to events put on by PNS, NSFM, FCM, AMA or another external agency where municipal topics are being discussed.
- Designate by policy who attends annual FCM and NSFM conferences?
- Public events where a Councillor attends in official capacity where Council has appointed the Councillor to attend (i.e., award recognition at school awards)
- Others?

Authorization

- Who approves Councillor travel?
- “Where a Councillor wishes to attend an event and be reimbursed travel, where the event is not covered under one of the scenarios above, the Councillor may ask for an eligibility review of the event, to be conducted by the CAO and Warden.”
- “When two or more requests are made by Councillors for the same purpose, the CAO in discussion with the Mayor shall then determine the appropriate number of persons necessary to represent the Town. Should a Councillor have a disagreement regarding their request for travel, the request will be reviewed with the Mayor.”

Milage Rate

- Current mileage = \$0.48/km
- Align mileage rate with PNS going forward?
- April 1, 2022 change from \$0.4615km to \$0.5113/km

Meal Allowances

- Currently 

Breakfast	\$13.00
Lunch	\$20.00
Dinner	\$30.00
- Amounts among highest in MUs reviewed
- Higher than PNS (\$8, \$15, \$20)
- Suggest adding timeframes for clarity:
- “Commence travel prior to 7:30am
- Traveling during reasonable lunch period
- Not expected to return before 6:30pm
- Time of departure/return must be consistent with timing of function. Legitimate reasons for earlier/later departure/return should be documented on claim form and discussed with the signing authority”



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Appointees by Council

- Appointee = individual appointed by Council as a representative of the Municipality (i.e., Policy Advisory, Senior Safety, Audit Committee)
- Reimbursement of mileage for attendance at meetings of boards, committees or organizations to which appointed
- Honorariums?

Council requested the CFO to come back with a draft and comparison for the Remuneration Policy and Travel allowance vs. reimbursement.

Council directed staff to proceed with drafting a travel policy

**COUNCIL MEETING**

Next Council meeting will be decided at a later date.

**IN CAMERA**

*On Motion of Councillor MacNeil to go In Camera*

*Motion Carried.*

**ADJOURN**