



Victoria County Municipal Council
July 12, 2022

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held in Council Chambers in Baddeck on June 23, 2022, 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 **VIA ZOOM**

Alix Redden, CFO

Ursula Melski, Communications

Stephanie MacLeod, Recorder

Dan Coffin, Tourism and Recreation Manager

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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.

On Motion of Deputy Warden Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacLeod that the Agenda for July 12, 2022, be approved.

Motion Carried.

CABOT TRAIL RELAY – DAVE PARKINSON

Mr. Parkinson presented an update to Council about the 2022 Cabot Trail Relay Race. Some highlights included:

- The Relay is grateful for the support that the County has always given them.
- The Relay normally get 80 teams trying to get into 70 spots. This year there were 90 teams that applied. Ended up with 63 teams, some teams withdrew, some merged.



CABOT TRAIL RELAY ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 675
Baddeck, Nova Scotia
B0E 1B0

2022 CABOT TRAIL RELAY RACE

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Revenue	Balance:	\$ 28,150.00	Who Benefits
	County Contribution:	\$ 7,000.00	
	Registration	\$111,510.00	
	Extra Meal & Shirt Sales:	\$ 2,120.00	
	Total Revenue:	\$148,780.00	
Direct Costs	Banquet:	\$ 35,520.00	Lions Club & Local
	Brochures, Advertising, Website, Posters:	\$ 1,625.00	Sydney Companies
	Shirts & Captains Bags	\$ 27,825.00	Halifax Company
	Prizes:	\$ 6,370.00	Sydney & Local
	Atlantic Chip Timing:	\$ 9,570.00	Halifax Company
	Technical Crew Expenses:	\$ 27,200.00	NS
	Technical Crew Accommodations:	\$ 5,000.00	Giselle's
	Portables for around Trail:	\$ 7,820.00	Island Portables
	EHS:	\$ 6,625.00	
	Misc. Costs (School Shower Rentals, supplies, postage, etc.)	\$ 845.00	
	Bursary's to Schools:	\$ 2,000.00	
	Donations to Hospitals:	\$ 3,000.00	
	Volunteer Fire Departments:	\$ 2,500.00	
	Taigh Curaim Daycare:	\$ 1,850.00	
	Direct Event Costs:	\$137,750.00	
	Surplus:	\$ 11,030.00	
	Liability for GST (Allowance):	\$ 10,000.00	



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Direct Financial Benefit to Organizations around the Cabot Trail

Baddeck Academy, Cabot High, Ecole NDA & Cape Breton Highlands Bursaries	\$2,000
Buchanan Memorial, Sacred Heart & Victoria County Memorial Hospitals	\$3,000
Baddeck Lions Club	\$6,850
Taigh Curaim DayCare ⁽¹⁾	>\$3,700
Victoria Farmers Co-op	\$2,250
Victoria Highland Civic Centre	\$2,360
Knox Youth Group	\$400
Fire Department Donation	\$2,500
Knox Ladies	\$2,600
Total:	\$25,660

Note 1: The CTRR purchased all supplies for the daycare to have a spaghetti dinner fundraiser with all proceeds to the daycare.

Other Revenue Stream

# of Runners and Guests in Cape Breton for the CTRR:	1170
Average Spent/person for the weekend:	\$300
Approximate Additional Revenue for Weekend:	\$351,000

Businesses that Benefitted from the 2022 CTRR

Clucking Hen	Accommodations in Cheticamp
Cape Smokey	The Dancing Goat
Restaurants in Ingonish	The Lakes Restaurant
Mountainview Restaurant	Food Establishments in Baddeck
Wabo's - Cheticamp	Accommodations in Baddeck
Petro Canada - Cheticamp	

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Mr. Parkinson is hoping to receive continued support from Victoria County.

Questions:

Warden Morrison acknowledged and recognised the work put in from the Relay committee.

Councillor MacDonald asked if there are there any local teams? And Mr. Parkinson said there are 2 teams from Baddeck and at one time there was one in Ingonish, not sure if they are still a team and there is also a team out of Cheticamp.

Councillor MacLeod its nice to see the detailed report you provided, and the Relay is a good tradition to keep up.

Councillor MacNeil said it is a major undertaking and the benefits are vast.

Councillor Longva asked how you choose which teams are selected. Mr. Parkinson said all the teams are put into a bag, they pull out 40, for first come first serve then the others are looked at more in depth and see where they are coming from, they want to bring in teams from other provinces. They try to keep a balance and they also look at teams that were on the wait lists from other years.

Councillor Longva also added, it is a huge economic boost and would like to attend the banquet and Mr. Parkinson encourages all Council to attend the banquet next year.

Councillor Organ asked if there is a possibility to extend the number of teams and Mr. Parkinson said no because of the number limitations on the banquet dinner at the rink and they don't want to change the banquet since it such a unique experience.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee, congratulated Mr. Parkinson on the success of the Relay. Deputy Warden asked why other level of governments don't support the Relay, namely, the province and the Village. Mr. Parkinson said he wasn't comfortable asking the Village this year for funding due to their challenges, but they always have in the past. It is too a painful a process to apply for funding with the province, they make it too difficult.

Councillor Patterson also mentioned the free advertising that the event provides as it makes the evening news every night that the event is going on.

Warden Morrison echoed Mr. Parkinson's comment about the unique experience that the banquet dinner is.

Warden Morrison asked if they ever approached Inverness County for funding as well since they run through there and Mr. Parkinson said no, they haven't but it is certainly something we should do.

Warden Morrison encouraged Mr. Parkinson do follow the grant application process for further funding for 2023.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the June 23, 2022, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was presented for approval.

On Motion of Councillor Longva, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the Victoria County Municipal Council Minutes of June 23, 2022, be approved.

Motion Carried.

CAO REPORT

Action Items

- Contacted Bell about poor cell service, received a response today and they are requesting civic addresses of the poor cell services. CAO requested Councillors to get these civic numbers.
- Victoria County washrooms -Signage is being worked on and will be ordered soon. Expect mid/late July
- Ingonish washrooms - working with Kyla Dunphy on solutions for down there, received update on one site, and we are looking to continue with this initiative
- Another potential location in Ingonish is also being looked at, and we are awaiting info from the owner on next steps
- Upland did not have extra time for Middle River, but online sessions were available to all, this will be on our website
- Thanks to all that came out for the North Beach clean up day- 2 people
- RFP on Municipal properties - closed June 30 - no responses -will comment further on this in another section of my report for next steps.
- On the potential landfill site, Appraisal is almost done, and site is being surveyed. DNRR taking to Cabinet after they get our appraisal
- Wondering if any Councillors have any questions on the Water Rate Study because we do need a motion before we can send the request off to the UARB.

On Motion of Deputy Warden, seconded by Councillor MacDonald to accept the water rate study as presented.

Motion Carried.

Communications

- ACTing Collectively: The project is featured on our website for this quarter and has a page under Seniors Safety on our website <https://victoriacounty.com/residents/senior-safety-program/acting-collectively/>

Media:

- Victoria County has been in the news several times this past week about the future of the municipal building and our request to the Village for our office spaces back. We were busy managing media requests which gave us an opportunity to get accurate information out to the public. There is some incorrect information in the public and a few assumptions made by the media. We did create a website page to dispel misinformation that gives an overview of what has happened to date, council decisions and links to the facilities assessment, council meeting minutes and the news stories. This page will be updated going forward to help keep the public informed. <https://victoriacounty.com/victoria-county-administration-building/>

CAO said, as mentioned, we didn't receive any RFPs for real estate services, asking Council to extend the date of the RFP.

On Motion of Councillor MacNeil seconded by Deputy Warden Dauphinee to extend the RFP deadline.

Motion Carried.

Councillor MacNeil mentioned that on social media there were a lot of negative comments about Victoria County staff regarding the Courthouse and he wanted to make it clear that this was a Council decision, and any comments should be directed to Council and Councillor MacLeod agreed.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee also wanted to add that Victoria County owns the Highland Manor and those employees do not have a victoriacounty.ca email address but the Village of Baddeck does, this isn't fair, and they should be made to have their own email addresses.

Tourism

- Operators - strong first few weeks - off the charts.
- Staffing/supply issues, but, generally positive. 90+ % occupancy from those Dan has been speaking with
- BABTA - working with them on strategy/direction/mandate. Launched "VisitBaddeck.com"
- DCBA, CBMic on Mainstreet Music Program. Will see entertainment soon in Baddeck and Ingo, looking for a portable stage.

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Community Development/Placemaking:

- Ross Ferry meeting to review funding received
- St Ann's Bay Gathering Place - helped to achieve funding through ACOA, next steps on that gathering space
- Dingwall - new Community group set up, will be overseeing Dingwall Placemaking space
- Ingonish/Cop's Cove - 75-80 people out to July 5 BBQ- great vision of what could happen. Lots of great comments/suggestions

Trails:

- ARIA complete - next steps - create a mitigation plan on findings
- Trails support funding letters will be out shortly for County Trail Grant money
- Finalizing up the 2 projects that we currently had/have RFPs for. Will be then doing RFP for next section of trail, to continue trail work
- Hosted update meeting of VC Trails Federation. No one showed up. Will change method of communication to try to get engagement.

Finance

- Tax bills went out. Due August 2. Emailed bills may get duplicate email because we had issues in emailing. You are not being billed twice!
- Hiring in Dingwall, 2 PW in Baddeck (term), Rec/AL/Tourism jobs - check our website, and, we have used lots of advertising routes (these close July 15).
- We will also be hiring a new Communications officer as well.

Tax Update:

The 2022 bills were \$522,158 more than last year's billing - \$9,870,560 vs. \$9,348,402 for just Victoria County rates.

The bills also included the Village rates this year. With the Village included this year and not included last year, that was an additional \$280,496 billed on top of the above numbers

Tax Sale Update:

- Approximately 150 in attendance
- Lasted 2.5 hours
- 36 properties originally listed
 - 5 deferred to a future sale
 - 7 paid prior to tax sale
 - 3 not sold at tax sale

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- 21 sold at tax sale
 - o 17 paid balances owing within 3 days as required
 - o 4 did not pay balance owing within 3 days so properties will be listed again on a future tax sale
- Successful bids ranged from \$2k to \$138k
- Collected \$137,962 in outstanding tax arrears and interest
- Surplus = \$495,556

Rec/AL

- Lydia's last day is July 14th. Getting files ready to hand over, budgets, deadlines for reports etc..
- Lydia will actually be a new contact for her replacement in our MPAL program, for Cape Breton - good connections!
- Dalem Lake - hoping that members there can take the lead on this
- Ingonish project - pump track / skateboard park interest - possibly moving this idea up by Recreation Society location.

Public Works

- Some amendments have been made to the sidewalk work in Ingonish.
- Changes are coming to Construction & Demolition (C&D) approvals within the year. The changes are going to affect Dingwall more than Baddeck, but all will result in increased costs to manage this material. The changes include:
 - I. We will require approvals from NSE to store, transfer, and process C&D (currently don't need any of these in Dingwall)
 - II. Treated timber will be banned from C&D cells and will be sent to landfill if not able to market (increased amount of material will have to be trucked to Guysborough which = increased cost)
 - III. Changes will be coming related to siting selection and stockpiling limits (this will affect our current site in Dingwall and future sites)
- Warehouse renovations are moving along but are stalled because we're waiting on NSP for a scope and safety clearance
- Joe Baker passed his Class 1 distribution exam

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EDO

- The Baddeck staff and housing survey currently has 24 respondents. Working hard to get that number up – it’s not easy...
- From the Ingonish survey, I’ve been working with CMHC to adjust the “affordable housing” level for that region (which would assist with funding programs). I’d like to request a letter of support from council, from the request of CMHC, to accompany the survey data. It would be an endorsement that the statistics are recognized as a reasonable representation of the region
- Attended a session with Upland and am currently encouraging all businesses to look at the rough drafts of the documents online; it is open for comments until the end of July – REALLY important to look at!

Seniors Safety

- Couple requests for lawn care, - connected with Time Bank, VCHS
- Request- Alderwood - connecting with a path. Passed on to Alderwood Board
- Canada Day Packages went out - those that received them were very pleased. Need more Council involvement on these things
- SSO funding has been secured. Building a business case for additional funding.
- ACTing Collectively project is moving forward. Seniors want to take part to help future seniors, and, because they are bored -
 - looking forward to aa phone call
- Rick Hanson Cursory Review/Rating of the building - clearly shows that this building is failing - about 20% for building. Pass rate is 60%.
- Accessibility plan - will be worked on after Rick Hanson Review

RECESS

Warden Morrison called for a 15-minute recess and will have question period with CAO after we reconvene.

Warden Morrison acknowledged the presence of Gary Crowder, the new Village Commissioner and thanked him for attending council this evening.

Councillor Patterson asked about the \$474,000 from the tax sale update and asked if there was access to that and CAO said no, it is a deferred revenue, it will sit in reserves for 20 years.

CFO said the funds that we have from the previous 20 years from that reserve account is \$141,000.

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Councillor Longva mentioned washrooms and asked if there is more funding available for washrooms as there are new developments in the area. CAO said currently we have spent all the washroom funding we had, if there is other funding that comes available, we will put out another EOI at that time and mentioned that no one from District 4 applied for the prior washroom funding.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District 1

Councillor MacNeil said mowing was started in the district, but he is getting a lot of phone calls at the poor job that is being done with it.

On Motion of Councillor MacNeil seconded by Deputy Warden Dauphinee to take \$1000.00 from District 1 budget go to the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society for Next Chapter Campaign.

Motion Carried.

District 2

Councillor MacLeod had the following concerns:

- Looking for an update regarding West Side Middle River paving, the detour is still bad. The Bayle Bridge is in the making but is very frustrating to go through the detour and its not nice for tourists to get pictures.

On Motion of Councillor MacLeod seconded by Councillor Longva to write a letter to the Provincial Department of Public Works for an update on the detour.

Motion Carried.

- Warden Morrison and Councillor MacLeod took the VCT bus through the Canada Day Parade. Afterward, they were talking with Chief Norman, and he was very interested to know more about the service. We will be sending brochures and information to their office. It's a good momentum to build relationships with our First Nation neighbours.
- The NSHA had an engagement meeting on July 7, they will upload the video of the presentation and they will be sending the video to us to post on our website.

On Motion of Councillor MacLeod seconded by Deputy Warden Dauphinee to take \$1500.00 from District 2 budget go to the Middle River Hall for roof repairs.

Motion Carried.

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District 3

Warden Morrison attended the NSHA meeting in Baddeck, attendance was low, but the NSHA have agreed to have better communication when they do another town hall in the future.

There was an election in Wagmatcook and Warden Morrison passed his congratulations on to re-elected Chief Norman.

District 4

Councillor Longva also attended Cabot Days and it was great.

Councillor Longva recently went to the Courthouse in Wagmatcook and was very impressed.

Councillor Longva attended the Plan Eastern Nova meeting in Englishtown, about 20 people were in attendance. There was a concern around the zoning portion of the document, in particular with the zoning for wind turbines.

District 5

Councillor Patterson mentioned that Koodo seems to have better cell service than Bell if that will help in Councillor MacDonald's district.

Councillor Patterson said there was about 700 people for Canada Day in Ross Ferry.

Councillor Patterson acknowledged the organizations that received municipal grants and how appreciative they were for the funding.

Councillor Patterson presented the following resolution for approval:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION – 2022

FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES –

Appointment to Standing Committees

WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) represents the interests of member municipalities on policy and program matters that fall within federal jurisdiction;

WHEREAS FCM's Standing Committees are comprised of elected municipal officials from all regions and sizes of communities to form a broad base of support and provide FCM with the united voice required to carry the municipal message to the federal government; and

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WHEREAS Standing committees are appointed by the President of the FCM.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Municipality of the County of Victoria, Nova Scotia endorse Councillor Fraser Patterson to stand for appointment to FCM's Standing Committees for the period starting in June 2022 and ending June 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council assumes all costs associated with Councillor Fraser Patterson attending FCM's Board of Directors/ Standing Committees meetings.

On Motion of Councillor Longva seconded by Deputy Warden Dauphinee to appoint Councillor Patterson to the Standing Committees for the FCM.

Motion Carried.

District 6

Deputy Warden Dauphinee requested to hold the next Council meeting in Ingonish on August 22, 2022. Warden Morrison agreed and said we will have our next council session in Ingonish.

On Motion of Deputy Warden Dauphinee seconded by Councillor Organ to write a letter to CBRM Council asking them to review their policy on garbage and recycling. There is an issue arising in Victoria County when CBRM residents with cottages in Victoria County using black bags which, Victoria County, does not accept. Black bags are being placed in resident's boxes or in Parks Canada boxes.

Motion Carried.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee is seeing a lot of coastal erosion on different roads in his district, including Ferry Road.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee also congratulated Councillor MacDonald on the great success of Cabot Days that were held.

District 7

Councillor Organ thanked the volunteers with Cabot Days.

On Motion of Councillor Organ seconded by Deputy Warden Dauphinee to send a letter, congratulating Dr. Ken Murray who will be officially retiring on July 17, 2022 after serving the communities North of Smokey for 50 years.

Motion Carried.

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Councillor Organ is getting calls for civic addresses for areas where there is little to no cell service.

Councillor Organ requested school zone signs from Steve.

Councillor Organ attended the NSHA meeting in Cape North, could have been a better turn out, lots of questions were still unanswered.

District 8

Councillor MacDonald said he is looking at a better approach as a municipality, regarding the non-existent cell service that is not being provided to residents in District 8, and outlying areas. He is receiving multiple calls regarding little or no service, from seniors who are dependent on this service, and businesses such as Canada Post in St. Margaret's Village. They have not been able to connect the computer system which runs off the cell network.

That means no debit/credit transactions, MoneyGram bill payments, money orders, and no parcel tracking services for items coming into or leaving the post office. Councillor MacDonald has also reached out to Jaime Batiste's office to further look into this as the CRTC is under federal legislation. Councillor MacDonald also recognizes that the CAO has been trying to work on this issue with Bell as well.

On Motion of Councillor MacDonald seconded by Councillor Longva to write a letter to CRTC and CC' Jaime Batiste regarding the cell service that has been lost completely in District 8 and the non-existent cell service in District 2, District 4 and District 8.

Motion Carried.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee also suggested every resident that has complaints should make them online to the CRTC because he and his residents have had success with this in the past.

Councillor MacDonald said there is still no word on the Dingwall Road tender and only being told that its not ready. This has been since May; residents are looking for answers. Councillor MacDonald has also spoken to MLA Bain to provide an update this week.

Councillor MacDonald asked if the CAO could reach out to Steve MacDonald about the tender for this work and when it is going to be done.

Councillor MacDonald also addressed the potholes on Courtney Road and requested they be filled.

Councillor MacDonald said the Cabot Day event was a success with over 300 in attendance and thanked those from the Municipality, along with MLA Bain, who attended, it was good to see the community event come back.

Councillor MacDonald also mentioned that the Bay St. Lawrence Crab Fest is scheduled for July 17th.

MOTIONS/RESOLUTIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

**MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF VICTORIA
DRAFT POLICY**

**POLICY NAME- - PUBLICATION OF COUNCIL, COMMITTEE
AND COMMITTEE REPORTS ON
MUNICIPAL WEBSITE**

APPROVAL DATE: XXXX XX 2022

PREAMBLE:

In the interests of openness and transparency, it shall be the policy of the Municipality of the County of Victoria that approved minutes of Council, and Council Committees, (SEE APPENDIX A) together with Committee Reports provided to Council, will be posted on the municipal website. Municipal Council will not publish or distribute minutes of "In-Camera" meetings of either Council, or Committees of Council.

POLICY:

- 1. Municipal staff will prepare minutes for Municipal Council Meetings, and meetings of Committees of Council; and these minutes will be presented to the following Council or Committee Meeting for approval. **As per Robert's Rules of Order**, (established 1876) if council or any committee does not meet for six (6) months, the process of approving the minutes will be delegated to a special committee or an executive board. This practice produces an approved and legal record of the meeting shortly after the meeting closes but before memories of what occurred in the meeting fade. The special committee or executive board shall be composed of the Warden and one member of council, the chair of the committee and one other member of the committee and the CAO.*
- 2. If no minutes are available, Municipal staff will prepare a report from Committees of Council, and provide them to Council for consideration.*
- 3. Municipal Council, and Committees of Municipal Council, will consider the minutes prepared by staff, and will consider and approve the minutes, with or without amendments.*

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4. Municipal staff will publish the minutes of Council meetings, and the Committee reports received at Council Meetings, **within 15 business days following the approval of the Council minutes.**
5. Municipal staff will publish the minutes of Committees of Council **within 15 business days following the approval of the Committee minutes.**
6. Municipal staff will not publish, or distribute, minutes of any “In-Camera” meetings of Council, unless directed to do so by a resolution of Council, or a law enforcement organization or Court.

APPENDIX “A”

COMMITTEES Victoria County

Accessibility Advisory Committee

Public Works Committee

Economic Development Committee

Housing Committee

Broadband Committee

Planning Advisory Committee

Age-Friendly Committee

Seniors Safety Committee

Transit Committee

Audit Committee

Budget Committee

Others may be added as formed

On Motion of Councillor Patterson seconded by Councillor Longva to adopt the above policy on posting Committee Minutes on the Victoria County website.

Motion Carried.

Warden Morrison asked Councillor Patterson if there was a way, we can connect or combine the Senior Safety Committee and the Age Friendly Committee, is this something we can consider? Councillor Patterson said we should consolidate, the work that is being done now is amazing. Councillor Patterson will have a look at this and will bring it back to Council.

Notice of motion from Deputy Warden Dauphinee to discuss celebrations around the 100-year history of the Cabot Trail at the next Council meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter sent to Eileen Crosby with BLBRA.

COUNCIL MEETING

Next Council meeting will be August 22, 2022, in Ingonish, location TBA at 2:00pm.

ADJOURN

Councillor MacNeil made a motion to adjourn at 7:00pm.