

**Victoria County Municipal Council**  
November 7, 2022

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held in Council Chambers in Baddeck on November 7, 2022, at 2:00pm with Deputy Warden 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:

Alix Redden, Acting CAO

Stephanie MacLeod, Recorder

Dan Coffin, Tourism and Recreation Manager

Absent:

District #3- Bruce Morrison, Warden

Leanne MacEachen, CAO

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. Councillor Patterson requested an FCM Report be added to the agenda.

***On Motion of Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacLeod that the Agenda for November 7, 2022, be approved with the noted addition.***

***Motion Carried.***

### **BOUNDARY REVIEW PRESENTATION – STEFF MACLEOD**

Ms. MacLeod went over a Municipal Boundary Review Presentation, some of the highlights include:

#### *Boundary Review Background*

It is mandatory for every municipality to conduct a boundary review every eight years.

In 2022 the Municipality of Victoria County is due for a review and must apply to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSURAB) by the end of the year.

The boundary review is conducted to ensure the governance structure and style remains a fair representation of the population and geographic size as changes occur over time. During our review we looked at the:

- number of councillors
- governance structure (warden vs mayor)
- number of polling districts
- polling district boundaries

#### *Public Engagement*

We held open house sessions from May 24 to June 7, 2022, in each of the eight electoral districts in the county with a total of 33 attendees.

A dedicated webpage for electoral boundary review was created that included an overview of electoral boundary requirements, a timeline, a link to the online survey, electoral maps and other resources to provide context to residents.

#### *The Survey*

An online survey was created to gather feedback from residents who could not attend an in-person session. Paper copies of the survey were offered at each open house session.

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The survey:

- open for 30 days from May 24 to June 24, 2022.
- There were 22 online responses
- 11 paper surveys completed
- total of 33 responses

*District Boundary Proposed Changes*

The UARB has established a +10% variance from the average number of electors per district as the target, so because of this, some boundary lines needed to be adjusted. The following shows the changes to each district:

- District 1 will begin at the Yankee Line Road on the TCH.
- District 2 will take in from the Yankee Line Road, including along the TCH to the Red Barn and end east just before 221 Shore Road.
- District 3 will now start at the western side at Alderwood Lane (221 Shore Road) east along the shores of the Bras d'Or Lakes to 1031 Hwy 205 which encompasses Crescent Grove Road. Bordered by the TCH on the northern side where Hwy 205 meets Hwy 105 west.
- District 4 will now begin at 1031 Hwy 205, northeast, including the remainder of Baddeck Bay, Big Harbour, Englishtown and encompass Exit 11 on TCH north to the foot of Cape Smokey including River Bennet and Jersey Cove. It will no longer cover New Campbellton and New Harris.
- District 5 will now cover New Campbellton and New Harris Settlement and north to Cape Dauphin, along with the Victoria County portion of Boularderie Island.
- District 6 will remain the same as we estimate its size to drastically increase over the next 4 years due to economic development efforts.
- District 7 will now include from 36068 Cabot Trail north to Aspy Bay bridge.
- District 8 will be all of Victoria County north of the Aspy Bridge.

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*Voter Statistics*

If the UARB approves the boundary changes, the table below shows an estimate of the voter statistics:

Polling District	Number of Electors	% of Total Electors	Variation from the Average Number of Voters	
			#	%
1	749	13.19	39	5.5
2	761	13.39	51	7.1
3	732	12.89	22	3
4	699	12.3	-11	-1.5
5	780	13.73	70	9.8
6	659	11.6	-51	-7.2
7	653	11.4	-57	-8
8	647	11.41	-63	-8.9

*2022 Proposed District Descriptions*

If the UARB approves the boundary changes, the following is list of the districts with their full district descriptions:

**DISTRICT 1**

Iona Peninsula, communities of Bucklaw and Wagmatcook and Nyanza to the Yankee Line Road intersection on the north and south side of the TCH (Trans Canada Highway).

**DISTRICT 2**

Westside Middle River, Yankee Line and Middle River to county line. Big Baddeck including residents along the Buckwheat Road and along the north side of the TCH from the Yankee Line Road east to the point where districts two, three and four intersect. On the south side of the TCH from the Baddeck River Bridge east to just before 221 Shore Road.

**DISTRICT 3**

Starting at western side at Alderwood Lane (221 Shore Road) east along the shores of the Bras d'Or Lakes to 1031 Hwy 205 which encompasses Crescent Grove Road. Bordered by the TCH on the northern side where Hwy 205 meets Hwy 105 west.

**DISTRICT 4**

Beginning at 1031 Hwy 205, northeast, including the remainder of Baddeck Bay, Big Harbour, Englishtown. Exit 11 on TCH north to the foot of Cape Smokey including River Bennet and Jersey Cove.

**DISTRICT 5**

Victoria County portion of Boularderie Island and New Harris Settlement north to Cape Dauphin.

**DISTRICT 6**

Foot of Cape Smokey north along the Cabot Trail to 36068 Cabot Trail on the north and 36086 Cabot Trail on the south.

**DISTRICT 7**

36068 Cabot Trail north to Aspy Bridge including Neil's Harbour, New Haven, White Point, Smelt Brook.

**DISTRICT 8**

All of Victoria County north of the Aspy Bridge.

*Questions*

Councillor Patterson asked about the percent of total electors or total electors in the county as shown on the table and Acting CAO Redden says the important column is the variation percent column (7% less than average, must be +/- 10%).

Councillor Patterson asked if any are outside the allowable variation and Acting CAO Redden said that none are outside the allowable variation.

Ms. MacLeod said there needs to be a motion to accept the proposed boundary changes and the next step after that is to do two more public engagements sessions then it will be sent off to the UARB for approval.

***On Motion of Councillor MacLeod, seconded by Councillor Longva that the Victoria County Municipal Council accept the proposed municipal boundary changes as presented.***

***Motion Carried.***

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the October 17, 2022, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was presented for approval.

***On Motion of Councillor MacDonald, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the Victoria County Municipal Council Minutes of October 17, 2022, be approved.***

***Motion Carried.***

Councillor Patterson asked if there was a meeting of mayors and wardens yet and asked if there could be a Meals Plus Program follow up meeting.

Councillor Patterson also inquired about having a councillor meeting with the CBRM councillors as was done in the past before Covid.

### **CAO REPORT**

#### ***Action Items***

- Environmental Assessment for White Point went to DNRR. Waiting to go to Cabinet with it.
- Beautification Grants - got extensions for both projects we have on the go
- Municipal Boundary Review
- Looking into scheduling a Job Fair with Cape Breton Partnership.
- Submitted UARB responses on smart meters and Dingwall tank
- CMHC approved the Seed funding for the Ingonish Project. DCB will be coming forward with a lot size ask. The subdivision will need provincial government approval.

#### ***Tourism and Recreation***

##### Tourism:

- A database of available food service providers is being created to help share this information with the public throughout the remainder of fall and winter. It is important in the late fall and winter to tell visitors where they can get a bite to eat while also showing residents who they can support in their local community when looking for a meal out.
- Attending BABTA Board meeting Tuesday, Nov 1
- Attending CBU World Tourism Institute workshops on Reimagining the tourism Workforce Nov 8&9
- TIANS – Tourism Summit Coming up on Nov 29 & 30<sup>th</sup>
- Met with Tourism Atlantic, Tourism Nova Scotia and Destination Canada within past weeks
- Upcoming Program with Tourism NS on Compelling Tourism Communities: Emerging Winter Destination Pilot Program for Ingonish
- Keltic Update

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**Recreation:**

- Toured the County visiting Community facilities and communities
- Planning to host the next regional MPAL meeting
- Working to meet and discuss programming with schools and community groups

**Community Development:**

- Dingwall Update
- Ingonish STEP
- Baddeck CCP
  - Waterfront Update
  - Update from Playground group

**Trails:**

- Still awaiting word on large Infrastructure Canada grant for trails. Hope to hear final results this week.
- Also awaiting final approval of ACOA funding for next 2 sections of the trail development as per the ARIA final report

***Finance***

- Financial statements are done and approved.
- Tax Sale debrief, October 31, 2022. The tax sale is on November 22, 2022, at 11am at the Inverary. 27 properties are on the list, the website will be updated every Friday.
- Tax Collections Update: Currently at \$1.52 million compared to \$1.68 million last year so current is better by \$35k and arrears better by \$125k.
- Sent out over 900 tax reminders

***Public Works***

- Scrap metal tender has been awarded
- C&D Haul tender has been awarded
- Look into options for leasing and renting waste collection vehicles
- Reached out to SuperNova energy for a quote on solar panels for the transfer station.
- Talking to companies to take a look at our brush to get this taken off our sites.
- The roof is done at the County/doctor's house is Neil's Harbour
- Last day of ReUse was November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- The new water meter is installed at the Keltic
- Water bills should be out next week
- The tip fees that were waived for 3 weeks due to hurricane Fiona damage amounted to \$4,250 at the Dingwall site and \$8,420 at the Baddeck site.

### Seniors Safety

- Attended the Innovate Care Conference last week
- New Horizons grant for seniors will be submitted today.
- Meals Plus is looking into expanding this program to the wider community, not just Victoria County Home Support clients. Will be discussed further at the Senior Safety meeting.
- Fare Assistance Program meetings with Alix and Keegan.
- ACTing Collectively had their first participant.

### Other

- Washroom meeting in North Shore on October 27<sup>th</sup> was successful.
- Public Meeting on Nov 21 - Need a motion to transfer ownership of the BVFD land to the BVFD
- Generator program has opened for anyone planning on opening a Comfort Centre
- Looking to start an EOI for surveying companies. Our surveyor has told us he is looking at retiring in the near future, so, we want to be ready.
- Hiring 2 Public Works Attendants, a Public Works Clerk and a Communications Coordinator.

Councillor MacLeod asked about a sustainability grant to apply for Acting CAO Redden said we are aware and already signed up for info session.

Councillor MacLeod commented that other municipalities have a Climate Change Officer and maybe this is something we can consider with the next budget and there is some funding for this as well.

Councillor requested a meeting with Council to discuss the Meals Plus program further.

Councillor Patterson asked about the lease options for the PW vehicles and asked if most of our fleet are reaching the end of their life. Acting CAO Redden said it staggered but yes, some are coming to the end of their life.

Councillor Patterson said our PW trucks always look good and clean when you see them on the road.

Councillor Patterson asked about the recent financial statements and asked what was collected this far from taxes and Acting CAO Redden said we have collected 88% of current taxes owed thus far.



**MOTIONS**

***On Motion of Councillor MacLeod, seconded by Councillor MacNeil that the Victoria County convey the property at 520 Chebucto Street to the Baddeck Volunteer Fire Department, at less than Fair Market Value.***

***The County will relinquish title to the property dependant on the following conditions:  
If the Fire Department wishes to sell the property in the future, the County and the Village of Baddeck will be given first right of refusal.***

***Motion Carried.***

***On Motion of Councillor Longva, seconded by Councillor MacLeod that the Victoria County Municipal Council accept the recommendations from the audit committee to approve the financial statements as presented.***

***Motion Carried.***

**RECESS**

Deputy Warden Dauphinee called for a 15-minute recess.

**DISTRICT CONCERNS**

**District 1**

- Had a meeting with Steve MacDonald do discuss issues in the District, such as the turn in Iona that needs to be patched and the hole in Hazeldale/South Cove Area and winter plowing.
- Questions on a couple of issues on a property on the tax sale list. Spoke with Alix and will reply to email.
- Questions on Develop NS Broadband project and the delays in the area. Request an in-person meeting with Develop and Bell rep to discuss the problems.

***On Motion of Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacLeod that a letter be written to Develop Nova Scotia and Bell Aliant to update Council on broadband in the County.***

***Motion Carried.***

**District 2**

Councillor MacLeod requested a letter of congratulations to Mayor Chisholm-Beaton on being the new president of the NSFM.

**District 4**

Councillor Longva wanted to thank NS Power for installing the light in Tarbotvale but also had a complaint about NS Power on behalf of new residents that were building a new home in her district. The residents asked for power hookup, and they didn't get it after a year of asking and trying so now they are leaving out of frustration. Councillor Patterson added that he also had an issue with this in his district as well.

***On Motion of Councillor Longva, seconded by Councillor Patterson that a letter be written to Nova Scotia Power asking why there is a delay in service for new residents who are building new homes and waiting for over a year to have power brought to their property.***

***Motion Carried.***

Councillor Longva asked if the Acting CAO could reach out to the local RCMP detachment to see if they would advertise reminders to residents that the legal speed to pass emergency vehicles is 60km/h. Councillor Longva was contacted by a local resident who was not aware of this law.

Councillor Longva also mentioned that residents are asking about the progress on the rink so could we have an update from the committee.

***On Motion of Councillor Longva, seconded by Councillor MacDonald that a letter be sent to John Trickett with the Victoria Highland Civic Centre requesting him to come to Council to provide an update on the progress of the new build and the new concept drawings.***

***Motion Carried.***

Councillor Longva thanked the Provincial Department of Public Works for painting the lines on the North Shore.

**District 5**

Councillor Patterson mentioned that there is an FCM Advocacy Week in Ottawa this month and it is a good opportunity to voice local concerns. Councillor Patterson urged councillors to bring forward any issues to him to bring up at these meetings.

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Councillor Patterson asked if the County has ever accessed the community fund that was set up by the company that installed the windmill. It was supposed to be for community organizations. Acting CAO Redden has a copy of the agreement and will look into further.

**District 6**

Deputy Warden Dauphinee gave a big thank you to MLA Bain for arranging meetings with the Minister of Environment and Minister of DNRR in Halifax last week. Deputy Warden Dauphinee, Warden Morrison and Councillor MacLeod attended these meetings and some issues that were discussed were the Coastal Protection Act, Protected Lands and having year-round park access to provincial parks.

**District 7**

Councillor Organ had reported a school bus that there were complaints about and mentioned the asphalt pieces on the Cabot Trail that she reported to the Provincial Department of Public Works.

**District 8**

Councillor MacDonald said there is a concern with the roadway in Bay Road Valley. There is a culvert there that needs attention (paving section required). Steve MacDonald is aware and once the Dingwall Road is completed this will be addressed.

Councillor MacDonald said the shoulders in Cape North Hill are washed out all along the hill above the Cabot Fire Department, the area supervisor is aware.

**OTHER**

Councillor Patterson rescinded his notice of motion from previous council regarding post hurricane Fiona. It was decided to have this conversation after EMO Donovan attends a provincial conference regarding the response.

**COUNCIL MEETING**

Next Council meeting will be November 28, 2022, in Iona at the Highland Village at 2:00pm.

**ADJOURN**

Councillor MacNeil made a motion to adjourn at 3:05pm.