



**Victoria County Municipal Council**  
March 6, 2023

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at Council Chambers in Baddeck on March 6, 2023, at 2:00pm with Warden Morrison in the Chair.

Present Were:

District #3- Bruce Morrison, Warden

District #4- Barbara Longva

District #5- Fraser Patterson

District #6 – Larry Dauphinee, Deputy Warden

District #7- Jackie Organ

Also present were:

Leanne MacEachen, CAO

Allan Bragg, Manager of Finance

Stephanie MacLeod, Recorder

Dan Coffin, Tourism and Recreation Manager

Jennifer Dagsvik

Absent:

District #1- Paul MacNeil

District #2- Perla MacLeod

District #8- Norman MacDonald

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.

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**CALL TO ORDER**

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

***On Motion of Councillor Longva seconded by Deputy Warden Dauphinee that the Agenda for March 6, 2023, be approved.***

***Motion Carried.***

**PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS – STEVE MACDONALD AND PAUL COLTON**

Mr. MacDonald went over the areas where there will be work done in 2023.

Mr. MacDonald also received an additional \$1 million in RIM funding for this area and Inverness north. \$550,000 will go toward brush cutting. Some will also go into draining improvements and coastal erosion projects.

There are also several bridge projects as well.

Mr. MacDonald will send a list of the projects to Council.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee mentioned Doucette's Road and was happy work is going to be done in that area but also mentioned Marc Doucette's property and his concern with that and Mr. MacDonald said they are working with that property owner right now with their risk management department.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee mentioned that 50kms is not enough for brush clearing, we are a much bigger area. Mr. MacDonald said understood but we are doing our best to prioritise.

Mr. MacDonald discussed weather event issues and their protocols and policies for when plows are deployed.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee mentioned that the Cabot Trail and it is in the worst condition, this is supposed to be a world class attraction and in 10 years time there will be 100-year anniversary of the Cabot Trail. There needs to be a lot of work and attention on the Cabot Trail, and Deputy Warden Dauphinee requested that Mr. MacDonald bring that message back to the Province.

Mr. Colton said there are some areas that are going to be worked on and hoping to get some cost sharing with the Federal Government.

Councillor Organ brought her concerns forward as well, which are similar to Deputy Warden's. Councillor Organ asked if any new armour stone will be put in near the Manor, and Mr. MacDonald said there is no planned work in that area right now.

Councillor Organ asked if the bridge will be raised in New Haven and Mr. MacDonald will bring this up with the bridge engineer.

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Councillor Organ is still waiting for the “no parking” signs in the school zone. The bus won’t go down that road anymore if the parking continues on that road.

Councillor Organ and Councillor Longva asked for a highway traffic camera for the North Shore and Mr. MacDonald has asked for one there for a while now and Mr. Colton said he will request one as well.

Councillor Organ complained about the chip seal and the seal that was put on in the North Shore last year was disgraceful.

Councillor Organ talked about the lack of operators and Mr. MacDonald agreed and said it is a major struggle right now and we continue to try and recruit, train and hire.

Councillor Longva went over her concerns, which were plenty.

Some areas of concern that she mentioned were:

- Washout at a resident’s driveway in Wreck Cove that was washed out because of a faulty culvert. Mr. MacDonald is aware of this and will follow up with his supervisors on this.
- Snowplows filling in the end of the New Campbellton Road
- Erosion on the road from Bell Museum towards Baddeck Bay
- Bridge on the West Tarbot Road

Councillor Patterson went over his concerns as well and also discussed missing signs that haven’t been replaced.

Councillor Patterson discussed the Seal Island Bridge and the engineering reports and got very low scores and asked when this work will be done, and Mr. Colton said he is not sure when this work will be done.

Warden Morrison mentioned Councillor MacLeod’s concern in Big Baddeck, and it is on the RIM project for this year. Councillor MacLeod asked if there are any updates for the bridge at Goldbrook and there are no updates to give at this time.

Warden Morrison had a few areas of concerns including MacLeod Street, Old Margaree Road and the water flooding on Water Street.

Warden Morrison mentioned the sidewalk on Shore Road near the school and asked if there is anything that can be done and Mr. MacDonald said the traffic supervisor was up to see that area and is awaiting his report. Fresh lines will be done this spring.

CAO MacEachen reminded Council that the Deputy Minister of Public Works is coming on March 17, 2023.

CAO MacEachen mentioned the Province’s “build back better” initiative, so please remember that when replacing culverts and other infrastructure.

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**WATERFRONT BADDECK PRESENTATION – STEVE GOLDTHWAITE AND STEVE ROSS**

Mr. Goldthwaite gave a presentation, and the highlights include:

Sub-committee of the Village Commission:

A committee established by the Village Commission of Baddeck under the Municipal Government act of Nova Scotia, Chapter 18. September 11, 2019

Purpose:

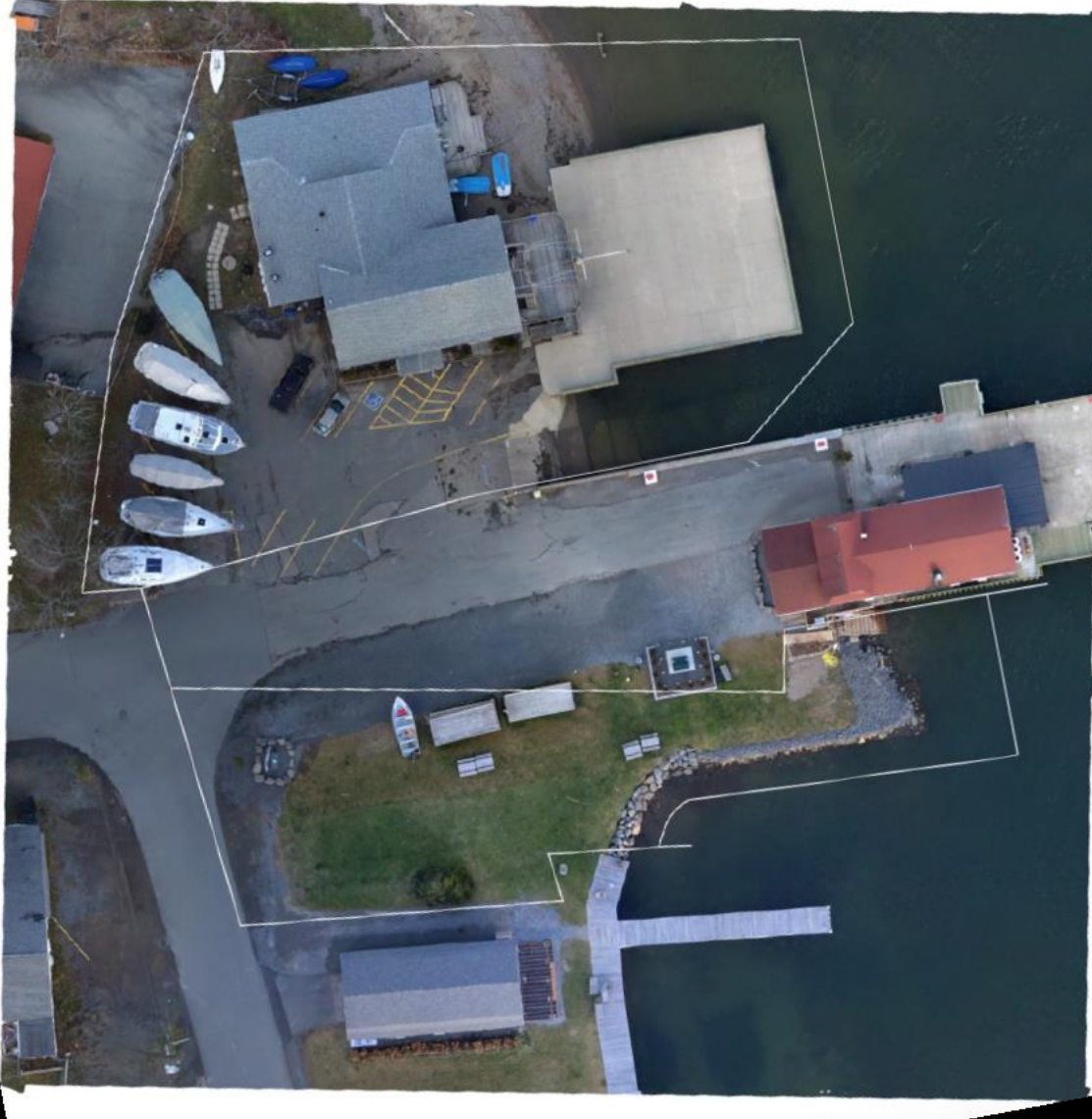
To advise the Village Commission of Baddeck on issues pertaining to the waterfront on behalf of the people of Baddeck, visitors to the area, and the broader community in a transparent, financial and environmentally sustainable manner, while recognizing that the wharf is owned by the Village.

Community's connection from land and sea. A signature destination for vessels of all sizes both local and visiting.

Wharf Revenue is Reinvested in the Waterfront:

	Actual	Projected		
	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>40,575</b>	<b>57,809</b>	<b>72,120</b>	<b>73,255</b>
<b>Potential Waterfront Reinvestment Expenses</b>				
Wharf Investments and Upgrades	30,000	5,000	10,000	10,000
Boardwalk Investments and Maintenance		20,000	10,000	10,000
Kidston Island Investments and Maintenance	7,822	5,000	5,000	5,000
Washroom Management & Cleaning			7,500	7,500
Mooring and Harbour Investments	851	750	750	750
Long-Term Reinvestment (20% of Gross Income)		22,597	24,013	24,792
Sub Total	38,673	53,347	57,263	58,042
<b>Net Income after Waterfront Investments</b>	<b>1,903</b>	<b>4,462</b>	<b>14,856</b>	<b>15,213</b>

Gateway Project – Survey Boundaries:



Gateway Project – Concept Plan:





Gateway Project – Funding:

Total 2023 Gateway Budget : \$150,000–\$170,000

Sources of Funds – Participation from all stakeholders

ACOA 80,000\*

Freight Shed 10,000\*

Bras d’Or Yacht Club 5,000\*

Public Wharf 12,500

Village of Baddeck 12,500

County of Victoria TBD

Total TBD

\*Committed

Boardwalk Reconstruction:



- Property donated and migrated to the Village
- Boardwalk extension under review with DNR
- Preliminary survey, design and estimates complete
- Community meeting, input and feedback complete and in process of final design
- ACOA has verbally committed \$750,000



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There was a \$750,000 verbal commitment from the Province but they want to see Village and Municipal support as well.

Once this waterfront project is done, there won't be any more major projects being done here.

Questions:

Councillor Patterson asked about construction standards, and will it be able to withstand the big storms we have been getting recently and Mr. Ross said there was no real standards for the previous boardwalk and weather will always be a factor to consider.

Councillor Longva asked about the location of the washrooms and confirmed that they will be below the daycare, near the gym. There will be shower facilities there as well.

Warden Morrison thanked them for coming and mentioned the ask of \$25k/\$35k and Council encouraged them to apply through the Municipal Grant application process.

Warden Morrison said the bigger ask of \$250,000k will have to be discussed over time.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the February 21, 2023, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was presented for approval.

***On Motion of Councillor Longva, seconded by Deputy Warden Dauphinee that the Victoria County Municipal Council Minutes of February 21, 2023, be approved.***

***Motion Carried.***

**CAO REPORT**

***Action Items***

- Sidewalk/Crossing in Baddeck was discussed at Budget earlier in the day.
- Doing communications on water rate increase.
- White Point lands has Cabinet approval.

***Finance***

- Budget Day two was held today
- Audit planning is being done
- Tax Sale is on March 28, 2023 at 11:00am at the Inverary Inn.

***Public Works***

- Going to Dartmouth on Tuesday to look at the transfer truck. If everything goes as planned, we will take the next step which is purchase.
- Met with Neptune regarding our upcoming meter upgrade program. We're in the process of gathering customer data and sending them our information for messaging to customers.

***Tourism and Recreation***

**Tourism:**

- Tourism Nova Scotia Influencer visit in Ingonish was this past weekend. Watch for upcoming Nova Scotia Advertising promoting Wreck Cove and Ingonish as a winter destination.
- Our team Visited Bay St Lawrence and Cape North Area to meet and talk with people and organizations about Signage and future projects in those areas.
- Attended the CBU World Tourism Training Institute Session at the Gaelic College on Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>. The session was on Customer Service and had our very own Angelo from North River Kayak Tours and River Nest Cabins as a best practice speaker. Watch for and register for additional upcoming sessions in their training series.

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Recreation:

- Virtually Attended the Rick Hansen Foundation Conference
- In person attended a few different events that happened through-out the County such as BOLD Open House, Boularderie Line Dancing Club and the Big Bras d'Or Lunch and Learn
- The Multi-Sport online registration went live and as of 10 am Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup> there were 42 participants registered. The 12-week pilot program starts March 7<sup>th</sup> in Cabot and March 9<sup>th</sup> in Baddeck. For more info see the Active Living page on the website.

Trails:

- Work on-going in Meetings with user groups, planning landowner discussions and scheduling a meeting for potential trail builders. Stay tuned for these updates in next three months.
- Hearing about delays the Mary Barker / Cabot Club is having in the new Trail section in Ingonish. Same provincial red tape seems to be holding things up again for trail development in our county.

Community Development:

- Ongoing Planning meetings happening in Ingonish for the STEP and in Baddeck for Beacon Baddeck. More will come out about these projects as they move into community engagement session in 2 to 4 months.
- Community Placemaking plans for 2024 are being prepared now. These plans will include follow up with the previous placemaking community projects we have worked to support as well as looking to expand the placemaking initiatives into an additional 3-5 communities in the Summer / Fall of 2023/2024.

**Senior Safety**

- A "Seniors Cook at the Food Hub" program will be starting up in April. Senior Safety will be seeking nominations for up to 20 participants for the program. More information will be disseminated soon about how to nominate a senior in your community who is involved with preparing food for others in our communities.
- Seniors across Victoria County are discovering lots of great local information for seniors in the Facebook group we host. Search for "Seniors Safety Program; Victoria County, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Canada" and follow us to hear more!
- Still working on Accessibility Goals, Plan has been submitted.
- NS Accessibility Directorate continues to share relevant information with Public Sector Bodies (including Municipalities) to help us implement our Accessibility Plan.
- This week, the Accessibility Coordinator and the Recreation and Active Living Coordinators virtually attended a national conference on Accessibility hosted by the Rick Hansen Foundation

**EDO**

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- Staying busy with local business engagement and client work
- Attended a Workshop at the Verschuren Centre focused on Decarbonization of the Lobster fishing industry. The working session was led by RIMOT and poses an opportunity for Victoria County to consider. The focus is on converting fishing boats into electric vehicles and installing requisite support infrastructure in harbours to support them. The current upfront cost is quite high, much similar to any electric vehicle. However, the operating cost, is dramatically lower at an estimated 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the current operating costs for diesel powered ships. The anticipated breakeven would be at year 7 when compared to a new diesel ship. I would like to coordinate a time, if it is of interest to Council to have a representative from RIMOT address council to further explain the potential that we have in Victoria County. I also believe that in order for us to have uptake in this program we will need to create/advocate for an attractive financing structure to offset the increase upfront costs. The initial concept could focus on having a “Trial / Test Harbour” which is net-zero.

***Other***

- Sent off an NSCC letter of support for well monitoring, to monitor wells that we have.
- Met with Ross MacDonald on municipal issues.
- The EMO Lyle is bringing back an ambulance from Ontario.
- Efficiency Manager is starting work on getting assessments done for our municipal facilities.

**DISTRICT CONCERNS**

**District 2**

Warden Morrison read Councillor MacLeod's concerns:

- Light is blinking for months now at 265 Big Baddeck Road.
- Light in Big Baddeck Road in front of Zion Road, the light is white but then changes to pink/orange and is blinking.
- There will be a meeting in Middle River Hall about the situation of the Middle River and Big Baddeck River on March 14, 22023 at 7:00pm.

CAO also mentioned she had a call with Sean MacSween, and we have sent him a list of all the streetlights we currently have.

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**District 3**

***On Motion of Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Organ, to request a streetlight be installed at the intersection of Ross Street and Shore Road, Baddeck.***

***Motion Carried.***

**District 4**

Councillor Longva had the following concerns:

- Bussing issue for Adam Shore
- Streetlight burned out at Plaister Park just north of civic address 44880 Cabot Trail
- I reported a dangerous structure 47778 Cabot Trail to John Bain he said he would send an inspector out to inspect it.
- Report of major dumping done at St. Anns turnoff.
- We have a young Ukrainian family arriving in Baddeck. Community is rallying to help them.

***On Motion of Councillor Longva, seconded by Deputy Warden Dauphinee, to write a letter to Health Ministers, Jean-Yves Duclos and Michelle Thompson, asking to make it possible for private donors who would like to support students who wish to study to become doctors but may not have the financial ability to do so, by paying their tuition, to be able to get a tax deduction for this contribution to our health care and shortage of doctors, even if they are not a parent or guardian.***

***Motion Carried.***

**District 5**

Councillor Patterson thanked the Provincial Department of Public Works for coming to Council.

**District 6**

***On Motion of Deputy Warden Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Organ that \$2,000.00 be taken from District 6 budget for assistance with the painting St. Peter's Parish Church.***

***Motion Carried.***

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**District 7**

Councillor Organ to the residents of White Point I am still working on their no parking sign.

Councillor Organ provided the civic addressed for a previously requested streetlight near 1719 New Haven Road.

Councillor Organ thanked the water department for all the hard work they have done in Neils Harbour trying to find a water leak.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

All previously forwarded.

**COUNCIL MEETING**

Next Council meeting is March 20, 2023, at 2pm.

**ADJOURN**

Councillor Patterson made a motion to adjourn at 3:36pm.