

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

A Committee of the Whole meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at Council Chambers in Baddeck on March 17, 2023, at 2:00pm with Warden Morrison in the Chair.

### COUNCILLORS PRESENT

District #1- Paul MacNeil

District #3- Bruce Morrison, Warden

District #4- Barbara Longva, Councillor Longva had to leave early from the meeting.

District #5- Fraser Patterson

District #7- Jackie Organ

District #8- Norman MacDonald

### STAFF PRESENT

Leanne MacEachen, CAO

Stephanie MacLeod, Recorder

Jennifer Dagsvik, Communication and Marketing Coordinator

### ABSENT

District #2- Perla MacLeod

District #6 – Larry Dauphinee, Deputy Warden

This meeting was open to the public and MLA Bain was in attendance, no members of the public were present.

### **PETER HACKETT, DEPUTY MINISTER for THE PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, MARK PEACHY CHIEF ENGINEER, STEVE MACDONALD**

Each councillor went over their concerns in their district and voiced their frustrations with the road conditions.

Some areas and issues that were mentioned were:

Various sections on the Cabot Trail.

Washouts

Culvert sizes

Regular shoulder maintenance of roads

New Cambellton/Cape Dauphin Road

Various Bridges, in particular Rear Barrachois River and New Haven bridge

Coastal Erosion

Brush Cutting/mowing

Storm preparedness projects

Route 223, higher traffic area now and even more so with the re-opening of the Little Narrows Gypsum Plant.

Ferry operating/not operating lights for the Little Narrows ferry.

Poor shoulders

Gypsum fallout in Jamesville

The Baddeck and Middle Rivers. Requested Steve to touch base with Bruce MacDonald about this issue.

MacLeod, High, Grant and MacDermid Streets in Baddeck.

Traffic counts to justify extra staff being hired for Victoria County

Bussing issues with travelling certain classes of road

Correspondence with the County when work is being done that may affect Municipal infrastructure. – Steve said someone should be reaching out to the County. Steve will check with Sheena.

Cape Smokey Development – we need to know when and what work is being done as the County is possibly be putting in a water line.

Deputy Minister Hackett Comments:

Federal funding programs are expiring.

The Cabot Trail is on the radar of the provincial government, the Province has asked for federal funding for the repairs to sections on the Cabot Trail.

The Province has talked to Destination Cape Breton about the 100 year anniversary of the Cabot Trail and what the requests are. Minister Hackett recommended to send his department a letter regarding the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and what the requests are.

Deputy Minister Hackett asked where are the washouts along the North Shore and Councillor Longva informed him where the major washouts were.

Steve MacDonald comments on the New Cambellton Road: A fair amount of funding has been spent on that road. The remainder that wasn't done is on the program for next year. There are lots of grading requests, but it can't be done until the spring. There needs to be a better crown in more sections.

Coastal erosion funding is being applied for.

Brush cutting funding is being put toward secondary/trunk roads so residents should see significant projects being done this summer.

Massive Storm damage is a major concern for the department. We are in discussions to be more ahead of these damages because storms are getting stronger and creating more damage.

Route 223 is on a program.

Off Road Pilot Projects: there currently is no legislation for this right now but it is being looked at. We will see where there goes and then could possibly look into golf carts.

School boards set their own regulations for school busses, we don't set those standards. It doesn't make sense not to go down "1" class roads, Mr. Peachy said he believes this situation has been rectified and school boards will/should be changing their policies.

The department received more funding for their capital work.