

A Special Meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held via Teams on January 30, 2024, at 1:30pm with Warden Morrison in the Chair.

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

District #2- Perla MacLeod

District #3- Bruce Morrison, Warden

District #5- Fraser Patterson

District #6 – Larry Dauphinee, Deputy Warden

District #7- Jackie Organ

STAFF PRESENT

Leanne MacEachen, CAO

Steff MacLeod, Recorder

Alix Redden, CFO

ABSENT

District #1- Paul MacNeil

District #4- Barbara Longva

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.

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 January 30, 2024, be approved.

Motion Carried.

FCM CONFERENCE TRAVEL

Councillor Patterson requested to travel to British Columbia for an FCM Conference and he previously circulated financial information related to the trip.

Warden Morrison asked why Councillor Patterson did not bring this trip up at the last Council session and asked why Councillor Patterson can't attend virtually.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee said he had a conversation with Councillor Patterson prior to Council and told Councillor Patterson it wasn't necessary to bring up the trip at the Council meeting.

Councillor Patterson said he is now an elected board member of the FCM and as such, it is important to attend in person. He understands the costs to a small municipality but stressed that is important to meet other municipalities and representatives in person.

Warden Morrison asked what was spent on FCM conferences last year and CAO MacEachen said \$7,742.00 was spent on the FCM conferences over the last year.

Councillor MacLeod asked after this trip, do you have more trips do you have to go on?

Councillor Patterson said this is the last meeting with this board.

Councillor MacLeod asked if he was sitting on any other board that he needs to travel for and he said no.

Councillor Organ reiterated that she would be giving up her spot so it would save funds and also said, is it worth sending councillors on these trips if they are not re-offering in the next election? Warden Morrison thanked Councillor Organ for her thoughts and Deputy Warden Dauphinee said he agrees but said he would like to go as an outgoing councillor as he is still a voting member and would like to say goodbye to the connections he has made over the years at these conferences.

On Motion of Deputy Warden Dauphinee seconded by Councillor Organ to approve Councillor Patterson's travel to the FCM in British Columbia but there needs to be an addition to the Travel Policy for committee and board travel.

Motion Carried.

There were 4 Councillors in favour of this Motion with Warden Morrison being opposed.

Councillor Patterson agreed with the motion that there should be a policy on these board meetings and conferences.

VICTORIA COUNTY TRANSIT (VCT)

CAO MacEachen said VCT is down a bus again and are still on the waitlist for a hybrid. CAO MacEachen suggested selling the County RAV 4 to VCT and rescind the prior motion, made at the VCT AGM, to buy a van.

Councillor Patterson asked how many passengers the RAV took, and CAO said it carries 5 and said it would be sold at fair market value and then the County can look at getting something else.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee asked if VCT have funds to do both the van and but the RAV and keep the old motion and CAO said she is not sure if there is room in the VCT budget for that.

Councillor Organ asked how often the RAV is used and CAO said staff use it as much as possible, and have encouraged Council to use it as well, but know there is more of an immediate need for VCT, and the County can look at getting another vehicle.

Warden Morrison requested to get an appraisal done on the RAV to ensure it is sold at fair market value.

Councillor Patterson commented that the hybrids are not getting the driving range they are supposed to, especially in colder weather and CAO mentioned the EV feasibility study that the County is participating in, and Councillor Patterson said the charging stations are having issues as well with charging times. CAO MacEachen commented that the hoops that are having to be jumped through for the funding of the hybrids and electric is very difficult and we already have the funding for it so it would be wise to keep that option open.

Councillor MacLeod agreed, VCT can't start changing the application now.

On Motion of Deputy Warden Dauphinee seconded by Councillor MacLeod for VCT to buy the County RAV 4 from the County at fair market value.

Motion Carried.

ADJOURN

Councillor organ made a motion to adjourn at 1:57pm.