

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held in Council Chambers at Baddeck on February 20, 2024, at 2:00pm with Warden Morrison in the Chair.

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Leanne MacEachen, CAO

Steff MacLeod, Recorder

Alix Redden, CFO

Jessica Klien, Communications

ABSENT

District #8- Norman MacDonald due to work commitments.

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 with a minor change in order with Financial Statements being presented first.

On Motion of Councillor MacNeil seconded by Councillor Organ that the Agenda for February 20, 2024, be approved with the noted change.

Motion Carried.

VICTORIA COUNTY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PRESENTATION – ROB WADDEN

Mr. Wadden presented the Financial Statements for the year end of March 31, 2023. These Financial Statements can be found on our website at: [Financial Documents - Victoria County](#) (hover over link + CTRL + click).

On Motion of Councillor MacLeod seconded by Councillor Longva to approve the Financial Statements for the year end of March 31, 2024, as presented.

Motion Carried.

WATERFRONT BADDECK PRESENTATION – STEVE GOLDTHWAITE

Mr. Goldthwaite provided an update on the Waterfront Baddeck project, some of the highlights included:

- Over 25,000 visitors.
- Lions Club Swim Program and new dock.
- Waterfront Community Events.
- Restored power to Kidston Island.
- Annual floating dock installation and power.
- Gateway Project.
- Phase One of Public Washroom Project.
- Protecting Kidston Island and the lighthouse.
- Volunteers making a difference.

Building a sustainable waterfront:

Building a Sustainable Waterfront



2023 Season	Boats	Nights
Up to 50 Feet	106	147
51 – 80 Feet	22	51
Over 80 Feet	13	44
Cruise Ships	1	–
Commercial Operators	2	–
Total	144	242

Building a Sustainable Waterfront



March 3, 2023 Presentation to Councillors of Victoria County
• Projected Wharf Revenue for 2023 Season to be \$57,809
• Projected Wharf Revenue for 2024 Season to be \$73,255

• Actual Wharf Revenue for 2023 Season was \$74,000
• Projected Wharf Revenue for 2024 Season is \$90,917

The Boardwalk:

- Submitted a Village of Baddeck Boardwalk Project Proposal.
- Requesting \$75,000 from the County.

Work Completed to Date



Activity Description	Date
Public consultation, community waterfront workshop to exchange ideas and receive feedback on the priorities of the community	April 2021
Preliminary structural engineering work and surveys completed	March 2022
Hurricane Fiona significantly damaged the existing boardwalk	September 2022
Boardwalk land and water lot donated by a local family to the Village of Baddeck	October 2022
Application sent to NS Natural Resources and Renewables for widening the boardwalk an average of 2.7 metres into the harbour. Preliminary design consultation and renderings completed	November 2022
Notice (confidential) received that Baddeck Improvement Association received SCCF grant in the amount of \$293,112 for the construction of the living shoreline	April 2023
Association of Nova Scotia Museum Workshop held a session in Baddeck for Waterfront Baddeck to provide boardwalk accessibility and planning guidance	October 2023
Conducted community waterfront workshop working in small break-out groups to further define and prioritize the boardwalk and living shoreline features based on the public's input	December 2023

Milestones



Major Milestone Description	Indicator of Milestone Success	Completion Date
Funding and Grant Approvals	Official letters of award, signed funding agreements	May 15, 2024
Design and Engineering Complete	Final design and engineering plans signed off by the project architect/engineer and approved by the committee	June 17, 2024
All Required Permits in Place	All required permits obtained and in hand, with documentation from relevant authorities	June 21, 2024
Bid Awarded and Contractors Selected	Executed contracts with chosen contractors, and a public announcement or notice to proceed issued	August 26, 2024
Construction Complete	All construction activities verified as finished according to the project and contract specifications	June 30, 2025
Final Inspections Complete	Passing inspection reports from the building department, health and safety, and any other regulatory bodies	July 4, 2025
Boardwalk Open to Public	Official opening ceremony held, and the boardwalk accessible to the public with potential media coverage	July 13, 2025

Design and Engineering



Boardwalk Project Budget



Table 1: Project Budget

Project Expenses	Cost (\$)
Legal	10,000
Design Consultants	121,200
Engineering & Geotech	60,820
Survey	10,000
Construction	1,381,970
Landscaping	150,000
Site Furnishing & Interpretive Signage	175,000
Sub Total	1,908,990
10% Contingency	190,899
Total Net of HST	2,099,889
HST at 15%	315,000
HST Public Service Body Rebate at 71.4%	(225,000)
Total Project Cost Excluding Land Donation	2,189,889

Boardwalk Potential Sources of Funding



- ACOA
- Community Economic Development Fund
- Village of Baddeck
- Community Donations
- Municipality of Victoria County

QUESTIONS

Warden Morrison said he receives lots of positive feedback from the community with this project.

Council will defer the request to budget deliberations.

On Motion of Councillor MacLeod seconded by Councillor MacNeil to defer the \$75,000 request to Budget deliberations.

Motion Carried.

CAO MacEachen reminded Mr. Goldthwaite to submit a municipal grant application as well.

INVERNESS VICTORIA FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE PRESENTATION – BRUCE MACDONALD

Mr. MacDonald presented Council with an update on the Inverness Victoria Federation of Agriculture and some of the highlights included:

The Machinery Rental project, which received a municipal grant last year, has resulted in a range of impacts on all our members big and small and to the community at large, it has:

- Enhanced the viability of farming and keeps our farms operating, especially young farmers helping them to get established.
- Helped attract several new farm families into the community by demonstrating both the attractive services available to farmers as well as the strong community cooperative efforts.
- Allowed farmers to use machinery associated with new farming, technologies that lower the risk associated with exploring new crops and/or using new methods of production.
- Increased community awareness of the health, economic and environmental benefits of locally grown food and contributed to our local food security.
- Enabled the Federation to support a student bursary for agriculture, fund school food programs, invest in on-farm research trials, contribute to agricultural education and support other charitable organizations.
- Enabled farmers to use more environmentally sustainable practices to reduce our impact on climate change.
- Would like to host farm tours for Council.

QUESTIONS

Councillor MacLeod asked what the cost of the equipment was, and Mr. MacDonald said about \$1.5 million, and the program generates about \$100,000 in revenue from the rental program.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee thanked Mr. MacDonald and requested he submit a grant application.

Councillor MacNeil asked if Mr. MacDonald has seen a growth in farms in Victoria County and he said not right now but he thinks it will start to grow with new people moving in.

Warden Morrison asked what constitutes a farm and Mr. MacDonald said if they are registered and typically have \$10,000 of gross income or more.

E-VOTING RECOMMENDATION REPORT – CAO MACEACHEN

Preparation for the 2024 Municipal Election has started and staff require direction from Council in the following areas:

- Appoint the Returning Officer and associated fee.
- Authority to set the Tariff of Fees and Expenses.
- Authority to expend funds this year for preparation work.
- Use of electronic voting (internet and phone) from Intelivote Systems Inc. or ScytI.
- Dates for advance polling period and Nomination Day
- Direction on how to advise the public of preliminary list of electors for revisions.
- Permission to update the electors' list database up to end of Poll Day

- Use of the “Nova Scotia permanent registry of voters” from Elections Nova Scotia as the preliminary list.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee has no issues proceeding with the same that was used in the 2020 election, the returning officer, Blair Gallop was great and there were no issues with Intelivote.

On Motion of Deputy Warden Dauphinee seconded by Councillor MacLeod to

- 1. That Council appoint Blair Gallop as the Returning Officer (RO) for the 2024 Municipal Election, setting the fee for the Returning Officer to a maximum of \$16,000 with invoices to be approved by the Warden.***
- 2. That Council gives authority to the CAO to determine the Tariff of Fees and Expenses for the 2024 Municipal Election.***
- 3. That Council agree to a full electronic method (internet and phone) from Intelivote Systems Inc. for the 2024 Municipal Election.***
- 4. That Council set the dates for the advance polling period from Thursday, October 10, 2024, to the close of voting on Regular Election Poll Day of October 19, 2024. Nomination Day to be held on Tuesday, September 10, 2024.***
- 5. That Council agrees that in addition to the methods mandated by the Municipal Elections Act to notify the public of the preliminary list of electors and revision methods, that it be left to the discretion of the Returning Officer to determine additional notification mechanisms that will improve the accuracy of the electors lists.***
- 6. That Council authorizes election staff to continue to amend the electors’ list database in conjunction with the electronic voting system up to and including Regular Election Poll Day.***
- 7. That Council authorizes the use of the Nova Scotia permanent registry of voters provided by Elections Nova Scotia as the preliminary list of electors for the 2024 Municipal Election for Victoria County.***
- 8. That the RO do public education on the upcoming election and offer information session(s) for potential***

Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the January 22, 2024, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was presented for approval.

On Motion of Councillor MacLeod, seconded by Councillor Longva to approve the Minutes of January 22, 2024.

Motion Carried.

The Minutes of the January 30, 2024, Special meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was presented for approval.

On Motion of Deputy Warden Dauphinee seconded by Councillor Organ. to approve the Minutes of January 30, 2024.

Motion Carried.

CAO REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Still looking for an audit committee, must have some financial background.

Looking for Source Water Committee members.

Council agreed to the EPR program and all municipalities in NS signed on.

Newsletter went out, there is budget survey that we are encouraging residents to fill out, the survey will also be on the website.

The County Rav 4 is replaced with a Ford 150 for municipal travel.

Received a detailed report from NS Power, does Council still want NS Power to come present to Council and Deputy Warden Dauphinee said that is was not necessary at this time as we are seeing improvements, if more issues come out, we will request to invite them back.

Warden asked who residents should contact if they have questions for Plan Victoria and CAO said to contact Plan Victoria, the mail outs are in the mail now. They will also be doing an information session at the Cape North Fire Hall.

Councillor Longva said residents in her district are requesting more meetings and want meetings in their community as well. CAO said there are directions on the handout where residents can reach out to Plan Victoria.

Councillor Longva added that people are saying Baddeck should be included as well, and CAO MacEachen said that Baddeck have their own planning committee and Warden Morrison said that committee will be meeting later this month.

Councillor Longva asked about the expansion project with Theatre Baddeck and CAO said they are looking for different funding options to assist with the expansion and they will be coming to Council with an update.

RECESS

RESIDENT CONCERN – KATRINA MACKENZIE

Ms. MacKenzie voiced her disagreement with the process and changing of her street name. It changed from Campbell Street. to Jessica Wong Lane.

Ms. MacKenzie presented Council with an invoice to cover her administrative costs associated with updating the maps on Google when her street was renamed last year.

QUESTIONS

Warden Morrison said the County did follow the process. Warden Morrison accepted her invoice and would take it under advisement and give to the administration of the County and get back to her.

Councillor Patterson commented that he has had issues with street name changes with Canada Post, we can't be assured the post office receives these changes all the time.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

DISTRICT 1

Thanks to the plow operators and contractors for all the snow removal after the last two storms.

DISTRICT 2

- Streetlight request.
- Bridge between Wagmatcook and Nyanza, huge holes, Councillor MacNeil said he talked to the local supervisor today and it's supposed to be patched tomorrow.
- Roads in Margaree need holes patched as well, lots of Victoria County residents traveling to the Inverness Hospital.
- Request NSHA to come to Council.
- Office hours are February 27, 2024, at 11am.

DISTRICT 3

On Motion of Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Longva to contact Steve MacDonald, Provincial Department of Public Works Supervisor for new “no parking” signs at the Irving in Baddeck.

Motion Carried.

- Warden Morrison acknowledged volunteers, Carol Campbell, and Eileen Woodford for their work on the Baddeck Nordic Trail and thanked the landowner, Mary Doyle for use of her land and requested a letter be sent to them. send a letter.

DISTRICT 4

- Sign at Skir Dhu was knocked down, residents want it replaced.
- Sharp turn by the provincial park by the Gaelic College has poor visibility because of left over construction debris from the spring. Concerns will be sent to Steve MacDonald.
- Canada Revenue Agency will host a free tax clinic at St. Ann’s United Church on April 1, 2-4pm.

DISTRICT 5

No concerns.

DISTRICT 6

Thanks to Provincial Department of Public Works for addressing concerns.

DISTRICT 7

- Contacted by a resident that inquired about infrastructure projects being done in the district that I was not aware of, the resident was upset that I did not know, I do now. This project was not a municipal project but, in the future, I will let residents in District 7 of any projects going on in the community. If residents know of projects going on, please let me know.
- Rebuilding the wharf at North Bay
- Wharf extension.
- A decommissioned wharf in New Haven will be removed and there will be repairing of another wharf.
- Snow removal around the fire hydrants near the firehall but our water operators were clearing that snow today, so thank you to our staff for doing that.
- Tax Clinic Saturday March 9, 9-12pm, Ingonish Branch 105 Legion.

CORRESPONDENCE

All forwarded.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Victoria County Transit recently purchased a Toyota Rav 4 from the County, and it will be in service soon.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No members of the public were present.

NEXT MEETINGS

Council Meeting: March 26, 2024, at 2pm.

ADJOURN

Councillor Organ made a motion to adjourn at 4:00pm.