

A Special Meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held via Teams on February 26, 2024, at 1:15pm 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 #6 – Larry Dauphinee, Deputy Warden

District #7- Jackie Organ

STAFF PRESENT

Leanne MacEachen, CAO

Jennifer Dagsvik, Communications

ABSENT

District #5- Fraser Patterson

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. There was one item on the agenda to discuss the Keltic Lodge and the possibility that it may never re-open.

On Motion of Councillor MacNeil seconded by Councillor Organ that the Agenda for January 30, 2024, be approved.

Motion Carried.

THE FUTURE OF THE KELTIC LODGE

Deputy Warden Dauphinee expressed his concerns with the Keltic Lodge and has been keeping close touch with some friends in Ottawa who have been keeping him abreast of negotiations between Golf North and Parks Canada and the Minister of Environment in Ottawa and was hoping to have some good news that they were going put some money into the lodge and reopen it.

The Keltic Lodge did announce that they were closing it down for the year and storing stuff in there while they renovate the residences. But back in December, the fire department got a call there that there was smoke in the basement and when the fire department arrived, the place was full of smoke in the basement and it was discovered that one of the motors on one of the compressors was overheating.

During the fire departments inspection that day, it was noticed that numerous pipes were leaking and there were signs of arcing in the main electrical panel.

It was determined that Nova Scotia Power shut the power off to the Main Lodge and told Golf North that they had to get an electrician in to do an inspection and certify that everything was good to turn back on. As of today, that still hasn't happened, to Deputy Warden's knowledge. Deputy Warden Dauphinee went to the Keltic Lodge yesterday and the fuses are still not connected, so he assumes there's no power to the Main Lodge.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee emailed the manager this morning asking if the water was even drained after there's no power, there's no heat in that building now and he has not received a response back yet.

Council sent a letter in December 2023 to the Minister of Environment, Golf North and Parks Canada and have never received any information back from Golf North but did receive a letter back from Blair Pardy from Parks Canada. That letter didn't answer the question about the Main Lodge, just that they're investing money into the infrastructure, the road and the water lines going up there.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee has knowledge that negotiations were going on in Ottawa and it was looking pretty favorable, but then it was suggested to Deputy Warden Dauphinee that he start asking questions because at this time, as far as he knows, the Main Lodge probably wouldn't ever open again.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee said there's been a lot of damage to it, there's no doubt it needed a lot of repairs over the years, but under their lease agreement, Gulf North, is to maintain the facilities and he feels they haven't maintained it. And by leaving the electricity off there, he feels

that building is going to be destroyed shortly if something isn't done. There are several people in the community that have been asking for a copy of the lease agreement and have approached him about it.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee has worked with Parks Canada for years, so he knows what's in the lease agreement, but doesn't have a copy of it.

1. Deputy Warden Dauphinee requested the County go through the Freedom of Information Act to obtain two things:
A copy of the lease agreement between Golf North and Parks Canada.
2. All correspondence between Golf North, Department of Environment and Parks Canada.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee said if we could get a copy of all the emails and correspondence that's been sent back and forth, it will give the community a better understanding of what's going on and based on his review of the Keltic Lodge before, he feels Golf North haven't lived up to the agreement and as far as he is concerned.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee went on to say that one of the concerns is that Golf North will only keep running the golf course, and maybe the White Birch property and just let the rest go down hill. There are several cabins, 60 rooms all together between the Main Lodge and the cabins that are up above it. And what he is hearing is, none of them are opening this year.

Deputy Warden Dauphinee would like to make a motion that we direct staff to do to Freedom of Information (FOIPOP) requests, one for the lease and the other one for any correspondence between Golf North, Parks Canada and the Department of Environment, mainly the Minister's Office.

CAO MacEachen thinks that the motion should be amended to seek legal counsel for our role within that and the FOIPOP request related to it and Deputy Warden Dauphinee agreed.

On Motion of Deputy Warden Dauphinee seconded by Councillor Organ to seek legal advice and direction regarding directing staff to carry out a Federal FOIPOP requests for:

- 1. Lease Agreement between Golf North and Parks Canada***
- 2. All correspondence between Golf North, Department of Environment and Parks Canada.***

Motion Carried.

CAO MacEachen will keep Council updated with the request and Deputy Warden also requested that Blair Pardy, with Parks Canada meet with Council.

On Motion of Deputy Warden Dauphinee seconded by Councillor MacNeil to invite Blair Pardy to Council to discuss the actions with the Keltic Lodge.

Motion Carried.

ADJOURN

Councillor Organ made a motion to adjourn at 1:46pm.