

A Special Meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held via Teams on November 19, 2024, at 9:00am with CAO MacEachen in the Chair.

### **COUNCILLORS PRESENT**

District #1- Donna Matheson-Lefort

District #2- Perla MacLeod

District #3- Jess Kerr

District #4- Rosella Born

District #5- Fraser Patterson

District #6 – Tim Donovan

District #7- Jackie Organ

### **STAFF PRESENT**

Leanne MacEachen, CAO

Alix Redden, CFO

Steff MacLeod, Executive Assistant, Recorder

Dan Coffin, Manager of Tourism and Recreation

### **CALL TO ORDER**

After some technical difficulties, CAO MacEachen called the meeting to order and presented the agenda for approval. There was one item on the agenda to discuss if Council were going to attend a Waterfront Baddeck meeting.

***On Motion of Councillor MacLeod seconded by Councillor Organ that the Agenda for November 19, 2024, be approved.***

***Motion Carried.***

### **COUNCIL ATTENDANCE AT A WATERFRONT BADDECK MEETING**

Council was invited by Waterfront Baddeck to attend a meeting and there was some discussion on whether it was a public meeting and what the purpose of the meeting was. CAO MacEachen

said that she did not know anything more about this meeting than Council did and added that she thought it was an update on progress of how the boardwalk is proceeding. Council has given funding to the Boardwalk project.

Councillor Kerr said that the meeting was to discuss the funding announcement that's coming that day and that the funding has been put in place now and the permitting is just about completed and they're coming up with dates to start the work and added that he thought, that's all this meeting was about, to discuss the announcement.

CAO MacEachen acknowledged that Mr. Coffin, Tourism and Recreation Manager had his hand up and Mr. Coffin provided some background information.

Mr. Coffin went on to explain that going back to February of 2023 was possibly the first time his department was made aware of any project with Waterfront Baddeck. Information was given to the department in a document, inclusive of the upgrades that they had funded for the Baddeck Wharf at the time.

There was mention of a desire to improve the boardwalk at that time and the next correspondence given to the department was February 1, 2024, when we were given a copy of a document, just as a courtesy to be "kept in the loop", was the way the e-mail was worded. A copy of the document that they prepared gave the overview of the project that was given on the funding application, that they were applying for.

Mr. Coffin believed it was federal funding program for the boardwalk and that is the only information that has been brought to us.

Mr. Coffin went on to explain that the tourism department has a bit of the proposal document and thought that was shared with the previous Council. The e-mail was sent prior to a presentation to council and believed that's when Council had committed to municipal funding. Mr. Coffin said that from the tourism and recreation department, we've never been asked our opinion on the elements of the project. We've never been consulted with by the proponents on what they think should be included in that project. We've been invited to public sessions to publicly voice any concerns or issues, which is not a position that I'm terribly comfortable to be in most times, but we have been kept in the loop on what they are planning, but we've not been asked really, what our opinions are or best practices that we've witnessed in other locations.

CAO MacEachen let Council know that Steve Goldthwaite comes to council typically once or twice a year, giving an update on where they're at in relation to boardwalk progress or requests.

It's usually a request for funding or reporting on where the funding has happened.

She said she believes that the Boardwalk Committee, is a subcommittee of the Village, but we do normally have them come to Council to give an update.

There was some discussion from Council around attending as a Council or not and Council agreed that it was best if Waterfront Baddeck came to a Council meeting and presented to Council as whole, rather than individual Councillors attending their meeting separately.

Councillor Kerr said he would be attending.

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Councillor Born asked if it was just their announcement they wanted to discuss or was it more. She suggested that if they wanted to share it with us first before it became public then perhaps, they could share more information on what the meeting is regarding.

Councillor Kerr agreed and said that the meeting would be that, just to share the information on the announcement and added that it was no secret that the relationship between the County, Council and the Village Chair is not great, and thought the meeting was just to share good news.

Further discussion included meetings and the importance of Council being presented to as a whole Council, that is the proper protocol as any decisions made, are a decision of Council and not just one Councillor. It was suggested and agreed on that Mr. Coffin would attend the meeting and provide information back to the CAO as part of the CAO's Report to Council.

**ADJOURN**

Councillor Organ made a motion to adjourn at 10:06am.