

A Meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held in Iona at the Highland Village Museum on December 4, 2024, at 2:00pm with Warden Organ in the Chair.

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

District #1- Donna Matheson-Lefort

District #2- Perla MacLeod, Deputy Warden

District #3- Jess Kerr

District #4- Rosella Born

District #6 – Tim Donovan

District #7- Jackie Organ, Warden

District #8 – Wanda Hennick

STAFF PRESENT

Leanne MacEachen, CAO

Steff MacLeod, Executive Assistant, Recorder

Kelly Brett, Public Works Manager

Dan Coffin, Tourism and Recreation Manager

ABSENT

District #5- Fraser Patterson

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Organ called the meeting to order and presented the agenda for approval.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On Motion of Councillor Matheson-LeFort seconded by Councillor Born to approve the Minutes of October 17, 2024.

Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the October 17, 2024, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was presented for approval.

On Motion of Councillor MacLeod seconded by Warden Organ to approve the Minutes of October 17, 2024.

Motion Carried.

On Motion of Councillor Kerr seconded by Councillor MacLeod to approve the Special Council Minutes of November 19, 2024.

Motion Carried.

On Motion of Deputy Warden MacLeod seconded by Councillor Hennick to approve the Special Council Minutes of November 26, 2024.

Motion Carried.

CAO UPDATE

- Province requesting information regarding Land Use/Minimum Planning Standards extension.
- Old school property survey has been started, for the North Shore Fire Department.
- Reaching out to Inverness County to explore partnership opportunities, i.e. IDEA Plan, Cabot Trail 100th Anniversary planning, etc.
- Working on Council Resources; grant process, district budgets, etc.
- Low Income Property Tax Rebate is due December 31, 2024.
- Non-profits can now apply to receive recycling depot bottle donations for 2025. Applications must be submitted by Monday, December 16th, 2024.
- Circular Materials is supposed to have contracts out to Municipalities this week.
- In the process of finalizing the waste collection schedule for the holidays.
- EXP has been out to the Baddeck site to look at our leachate wells. They are not functioning as they should be. EXP will put together a quote to design and install new leachate wells in the spring/early summer.
- The snow removal/ice control services tender has been posted and covers the areas of Little Narrows and Ingonish for our water utilities. The tender closes at 2:00 pm, on December 12th, 2024.
- The water operators repaired a major leak in Dingwall and are working to identify the location of a second one.

- All of our systems are around the same age therefore, due to aging infrastructure we expect to see more repairs in the coming years.
- Our water operators have started shadowing wastewater treatment operators in Inverness. They will spend time over there in the coming months to familiarise themselves with wastewater treatment and collection processes.
- EV Charger study is completed, working with engineers to enhance the operations plan around it. Submitted a final report and next steps will have to be decided.

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

DISTRICT 1

- Christmas event Iona this year was a great success.

DISTRICT 2

On Motion of Deputy Warden MacLeod seconded by Councillor Matheson-LeFort to contact Susan Kelley with Cape Breton Victoria Regional Centre for Education regarding the state of the road going into the bus garage in Baddeck.

Motion Carried.

On Motion of Deputy Warden MacLeod seconded by Councillor Kerr for a streetlight request at HWY 105 #8416-8418, Baddeck NS.

Motion Carried.

- Requested to put council meetings on Voyent alerts the day of the meeting.

DISTRICT 3

- Issue with snow removal in the Village of Baddeck. CAO MacEachen said it is part of today's agenda to set a date to meet with the Village.

DISTRICT 4

- Thank you to all the public attending council meetings.
- Getting calls that are not in municipal jurisdiction but helped with the proper contacts.

DISTRICT 5

Deputy Warden MacLeod made the motion on behalf of Councillor Patterson.

On Motion of Deputy Warden MacLeod seconded by Councillor Kerr to take \$2,000.00 from District 5 Budget to the Ross Ferry Fire Department.

Motion Carried.

DISTRICT 6

On Motion of Councillor Donovan seconded by Councillor Born to contact the daycare to invite them to Council to provide an update on the progress of the daycares in Ingonish and Bay St. Lawrence.

Motion Carried.

DISTRICT 7

- Few calls for the Provincial Department of Public Works, grateful for the quick response.

DISTRICT 8

- North Highlands Nordic is getting their new groomer.

DATE SETTING FOR VILLAGE OF BADDECK MEETING

- Deputy Warden MacLeod requested that all Village Commissioners be in attendance.
- Council requested a facilitator for the meeting.
- It was decided that Ms. MacLeod will send a survey around to council with suggested dates.

MOTIONS/RESOLUTIONS

- LIBRARY FUNDING AGREEMENT

On Motion of Councillor Donovan seconded by Councillor Hennick to open the conversation of the Library Funding Agreement for \$1,600.00/month.

Motion Carried.

There was some discussion around budget and affordability.

Operational costs are still to be determined so Council is not prepared to make that decision yet but Ms. Mulak, who works for the Cape Breton Regional Library said the library are under the assumption that the County would pay for these costs.

On Motion of Councillor Born seconded by Councillor Hennick to approve the Library Funding Agreement for \$1,600.00/month.

Motion Carried.

CAO MacEachen asked if it was written in the Library Act that the municipality covers the operational costs, and Ms. Mulak said it isn't stated clearly that way but if you survey across the province that's typically what municipalities cover.

Waren Organ asked CAO MacEachen to look at what other operational costs are for libraries in other municipalities.

- CODE OF CONDUCT

On Motion of Councillor Kerr seconded by Councillor Donovan to approve and accept the new provincial Code of Conduct of Elected Officials.

Motion Carried.

- TAX WRITE OFF

On Motion of Deputy Warden MacLeod seconded by Councillor Matheson-LeFort to approve the tax write off of property account number 09455825 in the amount of \$1,866.72.

Motion Carried.

- BADDECK AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

On Motion of Deputy Warden MacLeod seconded by Councillor Kerr to appoint Misty MacDonald to the Baddeck Area Advisory Committee

Motion Carried.

On Motion of Councillor Donovan seconded by Deputy Warden MacLeod to appoint Councillor Kerr to the Baddeck Area Advisory Committee

Motion Carried.

- AUDIT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

On Motion of Deputy Warden MacLeod seconded by Councillor Born to appoint Denise Allen to the Audit Committee.

Motion Carried.

- DESTINATION CAPE BRETON APPOINTMENT

On Motion of Councillor Kerr seconded by Councillor Matheson-LeFort to appoint Deputy Warden MacLeod to the Board of Destination Cape Breton.

Motion Carried.

On Motion of Deputy Warden MacLeod seconded by Councillor Hennick to task CAO MacEachen to find a Treasurer for the Board of Destination Cape Breton and bring it back to Council by next Council Meeting.

Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

COMMITTEES	MEMBERS
Audit	All Council
Budget	All Council
EDPC (Eastern District Planning Commission)	Deputy Warden MacLeod, Councillor Donovan, Councillor Kerr (alternate)
Fences Arbitration	Councillor Patterson, Deputy Warden MacLeod
Housing	Councillor Donovan, Councillor Born, Councillor Kerr
IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility)	Councillor Matheson-LeFort
Rural Region 1 Solid Waste	Councillor Matheson-LeFort, Councillor Donovan
Public Works	All Council
Planning Advisory	All Council
Police Advisory	Warden Organ and Councillor Born
BOARDS	MEMBERS
Alderwood and Highland Manor	All Council
Baddeck Mooring Authority	Councillor Kerr
Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve	Councillor Matheson-LeFort
Cape Breton Regional Library	Deputy Warden MacLeod, Councillor Born (alternate)
CEPI	Councillor Matheson-LeFort
Destination Cape Breton	Deputy Warden MacLeod
Inverness-Victoria Federation of Agriculture	Councillor Kerr
LFA 27 Management Board	Warden Organ, Councillor Hennick (alternate)
Pitu'paq	Councillor Matheson-LeFort
Victoria County Home Support	Councillor Patterson, Councillor Hennick, Deputy Warden MacLeod
Victoria County Transit	Deputy Warden MacLeod (Chair) Wanda Hennick (Co-Chair) All Council

On Motion of Councillor Kerr seconded by Councillor Hennick to appoint Deputy Warden MacLeod to be the Chair of the Victoria County Transit Board.

Motion Carried.

On Motion of Deputy Warden seconded by Councillor Matheson-LeFort to open up a Planning Committee.

Motion Carried.

There was discussion around the Planning Committee and Council agreed that the Committee will be made up of all Council members and further discussions will take place about getting public members to possibly sit on the Committee.

Warden Organ said if Councillors have any names of public that would be interested in being on the committee, bring their names forward by December 31, 2024.

On Motion of Deputy Warden seconded by Councillor Donovan to accept the Planning Committee.

Motion Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

All forwarded.

MEETING TIMES

One Committee of the Whole meeting every second Monday of the month and one Council meeting the fourth Monday of the month both at 2pm.

NEXT MEETING

TBA

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Ann Marie MacNeil welcomed everyone to Iona and congratulated the new council.

There was discussion around the Village meeting and topics to be covered, including snow clearing.

On Motion of Councillor Kerr seconded by Councillor Born to have a Special Council Meeting with the Village to discuss snow clearing.

Motion Carried.

ADJOURN

Deputy Warden MacLeod made a motion to adjourn at 3:47