

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
March 14, 2011

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, March 14, 2011, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Bruce Morrison in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil
District #2 – Keith MacCuspic
District #3 – Bruce Morrison, Warden
District #5 – Fraser Patterson, Deputy Warden
District #6 – Larry Dauphinee
District #7 – David Donovan
District #8 – Johnny Buchanan

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

Absent was:

District #4 – Merrill MacInnis

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BRAS D'OR LAKES COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING INITIATIVE (CEPI)

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Anthony Morris, Bras d'Or Lakes Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative (CEPI).

Mr. Morris then provided Council with a power point presentation on CEPI. (copy attached).

Mr. Morris left a copy of the *Spirit of the Lakes Speaks*, which will be publicly launched on May 11, 2011. He requested that the document remain confidential until after the launch.

Deputy Warden Patterson brought up the matter of the shoreline erosion on the Lakes. Mr. Morris indicated that this issue has been discussed. Mr. Morris also mentioned the fact that sewage is the #1 issue facing the Bras d'Or Lakes and also the introduction of invasive species to the Lakes.

Council members indicated that the presentation was very informative and interesting. Mr. Morris indicated that the overall condition of the Bras d'Or Lakes is good and that is the way they would like to see it maintained.

The relationship between CEPI, Pitupaq and other organizations around the Bras d'Or Lakes was discussed.

Councillor MacNeil mentioned that the watershed area around the Bras d'Or Lakes also has high mineral base and he questioned whether CEPI is willing to work with industry. There is potential for new mining industry and they are receptive to same as long as it is done with a balanced approach.

Mr. Morris indicated that they are asking the County for their continued involvement with CEPI and the citizens to ensure the continuance of the protection of the Bras d'Or Lakes.

Warden Morrison thanked Mr. Morris for his presentation and he was excused at this time.

RECESS

Warden Morrison announced that Council would recess for 5 minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 14, 2011 AND UNOFFICIAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 28, 2011

The minutes of the February 14, 2011, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Deputy Warden Patterson, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of February 14, 2011, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Ruth Morrison is to be added as a member of the Age Friendly Advisory Committee and contact will be made with Helen Budge to see if she will also serve on the Committee.

An update on the meeting with Jim Frise, Keltic Lodge, was provided to Council. He provided information on the proposed operations for the Keltic for this coming season and overall it was a positive meeting.

UNOFFICIAL MEETING – FEBRUARY 28, 2011

The record of the February 28, 2011, unofficial meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was presented. As these were unofficial minutes, they do not require approval, but a number of issues need to be addressed.

The VCCAPS Association had requested that Council use their meeting software for one of the Council meetings and this will be arranged for a future meeting.

The Inverness-Victoria Federation of Agriculture had requested financial assistance from the Municipality in the amount of \$1,100.00

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the request from the Inverness-Victoria County Federation of Agriculture in the amount of \$1,100.00 be referred to budget. Motion carried.

The preliminary results of the Business Discovery Challenge were provided by Nona MacDermid at this meeting and it was indicated that 20 responses were received indicating an interest in Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) Training. This training will be provided in conjunction with CBCEDA and Nona MacDermid in the near future.

STAFF APPOINTMENTS – EASTERN DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSION

A letter was received from John Bain, Director, Eastern District Planning Commission, requesting Council make staffing appointments for 2011-2012.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspik, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the following appointments be approved by Council:

- **Administrator – Dangerous and Unsightly Premises – John Bain
Sean Donovan, Alternate**
- **Building Inspector – David MacKenzie
Cyril LeBlanc, Alternate
Leon LeBlanc, Alternate**

Harry Martell, Alternate

- **Development Officer – Karl Grenke**

John Bain, Alternate

Wanda Ryan, Alternate

Andrew Jones, Alternate

- **Fire Inspector – Cyril LeBlanc**

Sean Donovan, Alternate

David MacKenzie, Alternate

Leon LeBlanc, Alternate

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2010

The consolidated financial statements for the Municipality of the County of Victoria for the year ended March 31, 2010, were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that the consolidated financial statements for the Municipality of the County of Victoria for the year ended March 31, 2010, be approved. Motion carried.

PRELIMINARY 2011-2012 BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Sandy Hudson indicated that he will be commencing work on a preliminary budget for 2011-2012 and he questioned on Council's wishes in regard to the tax rate. He was advised to start the budget process using the same tax rate as 2010-2011 and bring a preliminary budget based on these figures to a future meeting.

Some expenses that will be occurring this year are the new IT system and the purchase of a new excavator for the Solid Waste facility. Also the contribution to the new Baddeck Water Treatment Plant that will come due in the next couple of years was discussed and the reserves will have to be built up to accommodate this contribution.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Warden Morrison indicated that he has attended a couple of meetings recently with regard to the Cape Breton Partnership and he would hopefully provide Council with a copy of the report at the next meeting.

POLICY REVIEW

The next policy that the CAO suggested should be developed is a policy with regard to interest on outstanding taxes. A draft policy will be developed for review at a future meeting.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #1

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal requesting that spring/summer maintenance be done (ditching, cutting, mowing) in the District #1 area. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Education expressing concern on the loss of the reading recovery program in the schools. Motion carried.

District #2

Councillor MacCuspic questioned as to when Council would schedule Dr. Sutherland to come to outline what doctors are looking for to locate to rural areas such as Victoria County. This presentation will be scheduled for the 1st session in May.

There has been no reply received from Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal with regard to their equipment inventory.

Councillor MacCuspic indicated that he recently attended a meeting on the changing of the climate with regard to renewable energy in Debert where discussion was held on community-based feed in tariffs to install and sell power to Nova Scotia Power. He felt this is something that should be investigated for Victoria County. He brought back literature in regard to this matter.

District #8

Councillor Buchanan presented a capital project request he received from Tom Wilson for the North Highlands Community Organization. The amount requested was \$2,000 for enhanced signage and improvements to the gift shop. This funding would come from the tourism capital budget.

Warden Morrison indicated he had a similar request on behalf of BABTA and it was decided to wait until Tom Wilson will be available later in the meeting to discuss these two applications and see if there are any more requests for funding from the tourism capital budget.

District #7

Councillor Donovan indicated that he attended a meeting of the Cabot Trail Working Association last Thursday with regard to the façade program. This program only applies to businesses located on the Cabot Trail. Businesses located off the Trail, such as Neil's Harbour, etc. are not eligible for funding, but it is anticipated that there will be another phase in the future that may take in outlying areas.

Marlene Usher, ECBC, will be in attendance at the next Council meeting.

District #6

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that a streetlight be installed at Civic Address 37787 Cabot Trail, located up from Scotiabank, in Ingonish Beach. Motion carried.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that he was approached with regard to the Municipality participating in two golf tournaments this coming season.

The first tournament is the Lions Club North of Smokey Tournament that will take place at the Highland Links.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, that the Municipality participate in the Lions Club Golf Tournament at Highland Links. Motion carried.

The Stanley Thompson Society sponsors the second golf tournament. The Highland Links is considered a gem of this golf course designer and is to raise money for designation. The date for the tournament is June 23, 2011.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the Municipality enter a team in the Stanley Thompson Society Golf Tournament on June 23, 2011. Motion carried.

District #5

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that \$2,000 be approved from the District #5 budget for the Big Bras d'Or Hall. Motion carried.

Deputy Warden Patterson expressed interest in participating in Population Forum 2 in Truro on April 7, 2011.

District #2

Councillor MacCuspic questioned on whether regular maintenance was done on the equipment at the Solid Waste Facility.

Sandy Hudson advised that there are daily pre-trip inspections done on all equipment.

The tractor that is presently being repaired was discussed. It was apparently being shut off by stalling it and the clutch now needs to be replaced and only has 1000 hours on it. This should not be taking place and if this was a recurring problem, it should have been looked at much earlier when it would cost far less money.

District #7

Councillor Donovan indicated that he attended a meeting with regard to the Heritage Lighthouse Protection Program recently and indicated that there is a simple application available. He would make this application available should the Village of Baddeck be interested in the program.

District #1

A problem occurred recently with the Little Narrows Water Utility and there were a number of issues with regard to this outage that need to be addressed. Communication was a problem in this outage.

The maintenance for this system is on a contract basis. A meeting will be held in the near future to discuss this matter.

District #3

Deputy Warden Patterson assumed the Chair.

Warden Morrison indicated that the Cape Breton Hospice Society will be hosting the provincial conference at the Inverary Resort in May and they are seeking sponsorship from area municipalities. There are various levels of sponsorship.

It was moved by Warden Morrison, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that the Municipality provide bronze sponsorship in the amount of \$1000.00. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison indicated that he was in receipt of a discussion paper on the RCMP that he would have circulated to Council prior to the RCMP's attendance at Council on March 28, 2011.

TOURISM CAPITAL FUNDING

Tom Wilson entered the meeting and explained that only 3 capital project applications were received for tourism capital funding this year. Council previously approved the application of the Crowdis Mountain Snowmobile Club.

The two projects submitted for approval tonight were:

BABTA - \$5,000 for signage
North Highland Community Organization - \$2,000 for signage and gift shop improvements

Tom Wilson provided the details of both projects to Council. The deadline for application for tourism capital funding is March 31, 2011.

Discussion took place on the applications.

It was moved by Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that \$2,000.00 be approved for the North Highlands Community Organization and \$5,000.00 for BABTA from the tourism capital budget funds. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A petition was received from the Inverary Inn Resort for the naming of four roads at the resort. This petition will be forwarded to the Eastern District Planning Commission and the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal for review and consideration.
2. Approval was received from both the Eastern District Planning Commission and the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal for the naming of the Red Point East Road as outlined on the petition.

It was moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that the Municipality approve the road name Red Point East Road as outlined on the submitted petition. Motion carried.

3. Information was received from the Utility and Review Board with regard to a Public Hearing to be held at the Masonic Hall, Baddeck, on April 19, 2011, at 3:00 p.m. on the Inverary Resort Celtic Club Program.

4. Letter from the Honourable Maureen MacDonald, Minister of Health and Wellness, with regard to Council's concern on the administration of the drug Lucentis in Halifax only.
5. Letter from the Honourable Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, with regard to the storm damage on wharves in Victoria County,

VICTORIA COUNTY FIRE STUDY

Sandy Hudson advised that he forwarded a copy of the final draft of the Victoria County Fire Study for review.

The matter of funding to fire departments was discussed. This document will not be adopted until a future meeting.

IT PROJECT

Sandy Hudson updated Council on the status of the IT Project with the 10 municipal units in Eastern Nova Scotia. After 10 months of evaluating various products, agreement has been reached to go with Diamond Solutions.

Sandy Hudson outlined to costs and process for rolling out this system. It is anticipated that Victoria County will be in the 2nd implementation phase, anticipated to be September to October, 2011. It is hoped that everything will be up and running by January 1, 2012. The anticipated cost of the system to Victoria County is \$100,000.00 annually. Discussion took place.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that Victoria County join the new IT Group and approve the Diamond Solutions proposal for IT services. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspic, seconded by Councillor Donovan, that the Municipality enter into an intermunicipal agreement with the 9 other participating units for the IT Project. Motion carried.

AMA FALL CONFERENCE

The annual conference of the Association of Municipal Administrators will be held at the Inverary Resort in October, 2011. Sandy Hudson advised that he is the Chair of the Conference Planning Committee. Cape Breton municipalities are being requested for funding for the conference.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that a \$1,000.00 contribution be approved for the Association of Municipal Administrators annual conference. Motion carried.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY COORDINATOR

Sandy Hudson advised that 13 applications were received for the Physical Activity Strategy Coordinator position. These applications will be reviewed in early April and interviews will be arranged with the Department of Health Promotion and Protection.

IN CAMERA

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, to move to an In Camera session. Motion carried.

REGULAR SESSION

It was moved by Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor MacNeil, to return to the regular session. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor MacCuspic, seconded by Councillor Donovan, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO

