

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
July 25, 2011

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, July 25, 2011, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Bruce Morrison in the Chair.

Present were:

District #2 – Keith MacCuspic
District #3 – Bruce Morrison, Warden
District #4 – Merrill MacInnis (Late Arrival)
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 #1 – Paul MacNeil (Due to Illness)

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

Councillor Donovan commented on the three presentations included on the agenda and the fact that there is a motion on the books that no more than two presentations be held at one meeting.

Warden Morrison provided an update on Councillor MacNeil. He is recuperating and will return to Council when he feels better.

PRESENTATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2011

Courtesy of Council was extended to Grant Burgess, C.A., Grant Thornton LLP Chartered Accountants, who presented the Draft Non-Consolidated Financial Statements for the Municipality of the County of Victoria for the year ended March 31, 2011.

Mr. Burgess indicated that the statements are in draft form and when the water utility and other information is compiled, the consolidated statements will be completed.

Mr. Burgess then reviewed the draft financial statements in detail with Council. He reported that the Municipality ended the year with an operating surplus of \$25,721, based on a total budget of approximately \$10.5 million.

Mr. Burgess indicated that when the consolidated statements are completed, he will come back and review them with Council as an Audit Committee. He will also review the Victoria County Water Utility statements at that time.

Mr. Burgess indicated that overall the Municipality had a reasonably good year. The bank indebtedness is down from \$2 million to \$1.3 million. A larger amount of tax receivables is being collected and he indicated that work must now be undertaken on getting the reserve funded.

A general discussion took place and Mr. Burgess answered various questions related to the draft financial statements.

Warden Morrison extended a vote of thanks to Mr. Burgess for his report and indicated they would await the presentation of the Consolidated Financial Statements in September.

RECESS

Warden Morrison announced that Council would recess for 10 minutes.

ENTERED

Councillor MacInnis entered the meeting at this time.

CAPE BRETON PARTNERSHIP

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Keith MacDonald, Executive Director of the Cape Breton Partnership, who was in attendance to update Council on the activities of the Partnership.

Mr. MacDonald thanked Council for the opportunity to appear before them and introduced Board Member, Investor and Baddeck resident, Sue Phalen, to Council.

Ms. Phalen advised that she has been a member of the Cape Breton Partnership Board for the past three years. She indicated that Keith MacDonald and the staff at the Partnership are great to work with. She stated that from her perspective as an investor, she gets more out of her investment, than she does in devoting her time as a Board Member. She urged the Municipality to continue to support the Partnership as it advances.

Mr. MacDonald then made a presentation on the Strategic Framework Proposed Implementation Strategy for the Cape Breton Partnership (copy attached).

Mr. MacDonald indicated that they are requesting the Municipality to continue to support the Framework as in advances. He also advised that he would like to bring Cape Breton municipal leaders together to discuss the Framework and obtain feedback. He requested the Municipality to continue to support the Cape Breton Partnership.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that he attended the last session of municipal leaders at the Inverary Resort and found it to be a very worthwhile event and one he would like to see happen again.

Councillor MacInnis brought up the matter of Cape Breton residents working in Western Canada and felt it was a shame that they cannot obtain work and utilize their abilities in their native Cape Breton.

Mr. MacDonald indicated that opportunity has to be the focus and is something to continue to work on and collaboratively move forward. He indicated he would provide an electronic copy of the Strategic Framework Proposed Implementation Strategy for distribution to Council Members.

Warden Morrison advised that the Cape Breton Partnership is a good combination of groups working cooperatively for positive change for the benefit of all Cape Breton. He thanked Mr. MacDonald for his presentation and indicated he would be invited back to Council in September with the final report on the Implementation Strategy.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 18, 2011

The minutes of the July 18, 2011, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of July 18, 2011, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Civic Addressing

This matter was referred to John Bain, Eastern District Planning Commission.

Kilted Golf Tournament

Council members interested in participating in the Gaelic College Kilted Golf Tournament on August 12, 2011, are to advise the Municipal Office by the end of the week.

Police Advisory Board

Sandy Hudson advised that Deputy Warden Patterson provided information on the makeup of a Police Advisory Board and it indicates that the Board can be a 5 member or a 7 member Board.

It was decided that the Municipality have a 5 member Board which is to consist of 2 Councillors, 2 lay members and 1 member appointed by the Minister of Justice.

Five applications were received for membership on the Board and it was felt that one member should be from the North of Smokey area and one from the Southern area of the Municipality.

The only applicant from the Northern area of the Municipality was Kevin Chaisson.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that Kevin Chaisson be appointed to the Police Advisory Board. Motion carried.

The remaining four applicants were from the Southern area of the County and it was decided to put all four names in a hat and draw by lot. Jim Morrow was requested to draw the successful name which was Andy Watt.

It was moved by Deputy Warden Patterson, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that Andy Watt be appointed to the Police Advisory Board. Motion carried.

Two Council members are also required for membership on the Police Advisory Board.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that Larry Dauphinee be appointed to the Police Advisory Board. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor MacInnis, seconded by Councillor Dauphinee, that Keith MacCuspic be appointed to the Police Advisory Board. Motion carried.

Sandy Hudson will contact the Minister's office so the final appointment for membership on the Police Advisory Board can be made.

Alexander Drive Extension

This matter has been referred to the Solicitor.

MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE COLLECTION UPDATE

Courtesy of Council was extended to Robert Dauphinee, Director of Public Works, who was in attendance to provide an update on the year one municipal solid waste collection operations.

Mr. Dauphinee indicated that the Municipality began collecting solid waste with its own forces in May, 2010. The year went very smoothly, with very little interruption. Calls of complaint were basically nil.

The collection vehicles have worked well and Mr. Dauphinee indicated that they experienced the first flat tire today. The vehicles are under warranty and warranty issues have been covered. Two of the side loaders are being run on a regular basis with approximately 30,000 in mileage per year. The third vehicle will be brought into service as required and will have less mileage, so that all three vehicles will not have to be replaced at one time. Mr. Dauphinee indicated that this will be monitored and it is anticipated that the vehicles will begin to be replaced in year 7.

Councillor MacInnis questioned on the maintenance of the vehicles and Mr. Dauphinee indicated that day to day maintenance is done by our own forces, with regular service and warranty issues undertaken by H G MacNeil Service in Sydney.

The financial information was reviewed comparing the budget 2010/11 figures, with the actual 2010/11 figures (copy attached). The total budgeted was \$444,895, and the actual costs were \$352,868. The budget categories were reviewed with Council.

Purchasing and employing within the County is a benefit to all. Staffing has worked out well, with six employees in the collection operation. Fuel is purchased locally within the districts as much as possible.

A question was raised on the heavy garbage pickup and it was indicated that the timing of the pickup is critical as residents like to have this service provided early for spring cleanup. This collection was contracted out this past year.

Council members expressed their satisfaction with the municipal collection service and indicated that they have received no complaints from residents during the past year.

Councillor Buchanan questioned on a new building for the workers at the Cape North Transfer Station. The power has been disconnected from the old building and the new one will be delivered in the near future and arrangements will be made with the electrician and NSPI to have the electricity reconnected.

A question was raised on the refusal to accept a load from a contractor at the Cape North site. Robert Dauphinee advised that the load was refused as there was insulation and other debris mixed in with the wood materials and this is supposed to be separated before brought to the site.

Concern was expressed that the load taken to the site from the County owned Muise property at Dingwall was also unsorted and was accepted. Robert Dauphinee will investigate this matter.

A general discussion took place and Mr. Dauphinee was extended a vote of thanks for his presentation.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #2

Councillor MacCuspig brought up a concern with regard to the traffic congestion and illegal parking that takes place at the Irving/Tim Horton's on the Trans Canada outside Baddeck during busy times.

It was moved by Councillor MacCuspig, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, that a letter be forwarded to the RCMP requesting that they enforce the "no parking" regulations at the Irving/Tim Horton's. Motion carried.

District #3

Warden Morrison brought up that matter of a communications strategy for the Municipality.

Jocelyn Bethune, Write Works Media, had previously submitted a proposal to the County in this regard. It was felt that if the Municipality wishes to proceed in this manner, then a Request for Proposals would be issued.

The Economic Development Strategy completed by Gordon McIntosh is to be investigated to see what it recommends in regard to communication.

District #6

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that he was just advised that Port Hood (Al MacInnis Sports Centre) was the winner of the Kraft Celebration Tour over Ingonish (Ski Cape Smokey).

Warden Morrison extended a vote of thanks and congratulations to Councillor Dauphinee for work he did on promoting Ski Cape Smokey in this venture.

MARKETING LEVY

Sandy Hudson presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Destination Cape Breton Association and the four participating municipalities (Richmond, CBRM, Victoria and Port Hawkesbury) with regard to the Marketing Levy. The document is to be signed by the Warden and CAO and forwarded on.

It was moved by Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor MacCuspic, that the Municipality sign the MOU between Destination Cape Breton Association and the four participating municipalities with regard to the Cape Breton Island Marketing Levy. Motion carried.

WAGMATCOOK

Sandy Hudson advised that he was in contact with Chief Norman Bernard, Wagmatcook First Nation, and a meeting has been tentatively scheduled between both Councils for either Tuesday, August 2, 2011, or Thursday, August 4, 2011, at Wagmatcook. Chief Bernard will advise of the confirmed date and Council will be advised at that time.

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

Sandy Hudson advised that two letters were received from the Department of Seniors with regard to the Age-Friendly Program – one advising of approval of the Municipality's application for \$5,000.00 and the other questioning on how this funding will be spent.

Both pieces of correspondence were referred to Deputy Warden Patterson for the required action.

REQUEST FOR FUNDING

Warden Morrison advised that at the recent launch of the “Spirit of the Lakes Speaks” in Eskasoni, Wally Ellison approached he and Councillor MacCuspic with regard to assistance towards publishing a book on waterfalls in Cape Breton. Mr. Ellison has self-published two books.

Council has previously decided not to be involved in the publishing of books.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis advised that the Lieutenant Governor will be coming to his district this weekend to present the North Shore/St. Ann’s area with the Lieutenant Governors “Community Spirit Award”.

It was moved by Councillor Dauphinee, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, that congratulations be extended to the North Shore/St. Ann’s area on being a recipient of the Lieutenant Governor’s “Community Spirit Award”. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Council will be held in September, with the date to be determined.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor MacInnis, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO

