

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
February 22, 2016

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, February 22, 2016, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Warden Bruce Morrison in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil
District #2 – Athol Grant
District #3 – Bruce Morrison, Warden
District #4 – Merrill MacInnis
District #5 – Fraser Patterson, Deputy Warden
District #6 – Larry Dauphinee
District #7 – Wayne Budge
District #8 – Johnny Buchanan

Also present were:

Sandy Hudson, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Additions to the agenda include a proclamation for Nutrition Month and an In Camera meeting. The order to the presentations of the Strait Area Transit and Physical Active Living will be switched.

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as amended. Motion carried.

PROCLAMATION – NUTRITION MONTH

Courtesy of Council was extended to Debbie MacLean, RD, who was in attendance with regard to proclaiming March as Nutrition Month in Victoria County.

Warden Morrison read a proclamation from the Dietitians of Canada proclaiming March, 2016, as Nutrition Month - Take a 100 meal journey – make a small change one meal at a time.

It was moved and seconded that March, 2016, be proclaimed “Nutrition Month” in the Municipality of the County of Victoria. Motion carried.

Debbie MacLean indicated that the theme for Nutrition Month this year is “Take a 100 meal journey. Make a small change one meal at a time.” She indicated that there are approximately 100 meals in a month and by taking little steps and making one or two changes, overtime we may change habits and carry on with new health eating habits.

She indicated she will be making a presentation to the Bell Club during the month and will initiate a workplace challenge at her worksites and encouraged others to do the same.

Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Mrs. MacLean for her attendance.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY UPDATE

Courtesy of Council was extended to Vince Forrestall, Physical Activity Strategy Coordinator, who was in attendance to provide an update and renewal presentation on the Victoria County Physical Activity Strategy to Council (copy attached).

Mr. Forrestall indicated it has been five years since work began on the strategy and it has been a pleasure to serve as Coordinator and live, play, and work in Victoria County. He then provided a presentation on the Victoria County Physical Activity Strategy which was viewed by those in attendance.

Mr. Forrestall indicated that as the completion of the five year term was approaching, a review was conducted with a view to renewing the strategy for the next five years. He outlined the principles and values and the five goals for 2016-2021. The goals include:

- Awareness and information
- Partnership and Networks
- Programs and Activities
- Infrastructure
- Policies

Mr. Forrestall indicated that there is still work to be done and he hoped Council would allow this work to continue and renew the strategy for the next five years - 2016-2021. He also outlined the key findings from the Citizens survey completed in November, 2015.

Council thanked Mr. Forrestall for his work over the past five years and indicated that they have seen the results in their districts.

Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Mr. Forrestall.

RECESS

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for five minutes.

STRAIT AREA TRANSIT

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Dwayne MacDonald, General Manager/Supervising Driver, and Jessie MacDonald, Bookkeeper/Dispatcher, from Strait Area Transit (SAT).

Mr. MacDonald thanked Council for the opportunity to present on some interesting news with regard to SAT and Victoria County (copy attached). He introduced Councillor Jim Mustard, Inverness County, who is also the Chair of Strait Area Transit.

Strait Area Transit is a non-profit community based transit system whose goal is to provide inclusive, safe, reliable, and accessible transportation to the residents of Richmond, Inverness and Victoria Counties.

Along with their fixed routes, they also provide dial-a-ride services, charter services and parcel services. Parcel services are only done if there is no a private local carrier. He outlined the vehicles in the current SAT fleet.

The Victoria County Pilot Project began in August, 2015. This is a 20 hour per week service, Monday to Friday, with a fixed route between Baddeck and Whycomomagh.

He presented the proposed 2016-2017 budget. SAT accesses CTAP (Community Transportation Assistance Program) funding which covers a portion of the operating costs of their community-based inclusive transportation service. NS-TRIP (Nova Scotia Transit Research Incentive Program) funding provides funding for transit projects that generate new and improved public transit services in rural areas. Victoria County is eligible for this funding and the maximum funding is \$50,000.00 and this approval would allow for 30 hours of services per week and an extension to the dial-a-ride service.

The various budget categories were reviewed. The estimated cost for Victoria County to continue with the service in 2016-2017 would be approximately \$60,000.00.

The passenger fares on the Whycomomagh/Baddeck route were discussed and Mr. MacDonald indicated that although they are low, this is a part of the process and are encouraging. Inverness County was in a similar situation in their first year of service and he indicated the take-up numbers will get better.

Whether the service could be expanded to other areas of the County was questioned and Mr. MacDonald indicated that this is where the dial-a-ride program could come in. It is an appointment based service, based on availability.

Discussion took place on the cost of the charter service and how this service works.

Deputy Warden Patterson is a member of the SAT Board and initially he was concerned about how it would affect the current taxi service in the County, but he was informed that SAT does not infringe on private business in any way. They do in fact work with and use taxi company services when needed to supplement their service.

Warden Morrison indicated that as Councillor for the Baddeck area he sees the SAT vehicle coming and going empty and this is a concern. A better job of marketing the service and getting the word out to residents is required.

Whether the service would deviate from the fixed route was questioned, and this is where the dial-a-ride service would come into play.

Gerard Witzell, GW Taxi, was in the audience and he felt that this service is a wonderful project and he can only see it as aiding his company. This service will take away some of the clientele of people who operate a taxi service illegally. SAT will communicate and work with GW Taxi.

Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Mr. MacDonald for his presentation.

It was moved and seconded that SAT be authorized to apply for NS-TRIP funding on behalf of Victoria County. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that Victoria County continue using the SAT service at a cost of \$5,000.00 until the 2016-2017 budget is approved and the financial request for 2016-2017 be referred to budget discussions. Motion carried with Councillor Grant casting a dissenting vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 25, 2016

The minutes of the January 25, 2016, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of January 25, 2016, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

RETURNING OFFICER

Sandy Hudson advised that Council must appoint a Returning Officer for the upcoming Municipal and School Board Elections in the fall.

It was moved and seconded that Sandy Hudson be appointed Returning Officer and train an individual who can assume the Returning Officer duties in future elections. Motion carried.

BROADBAND COMMITTEE

Councillor MacNeil indicated that a meeting was held recently on Broadband as the province is looking at upgrading the infrastructure. Tom Wilson, Ron MacNeil, Gerard MacNeil and Councillor MacNeil attended this meeting and he felt that these people should form the initial committee which can be updated at a later date.

It was indicated that Councillor Dauphinee could also be an asset to this committee. Discussion took place on the internet services in Victoria County.

It was moved and seconded that the individuals outlined be appointed to the Broadband Committee. Motion carried.

VICTORIA COUNTY PRESENTATION

Discussion took place on the presentation for Victoria County, developed with the assistance of Jocelyn Bethune. Warden Morrison provided this presentation to the Freewheelers Club and the Seniors Luncheon at St. Ann's Bay United Church. The presentation was well received.

Councillor MacInnis felt that this presentation should be made in all municipal districts.

NEW BUSINESS

PHONE SERVICE

Deputy Warden Patterson brought up the issue of phone service when the power goes out. The battery boxes only have approximately 12 hours of life. He outlined the situation that recently happened in his district.

Derrick Roberts is the new Regional Manager with Bell Aliant and he is to be invited to attend a future Council session.

Councillor MacInnis indicated that it is important to have the Aliant battery boxes accessible in such events.

DESTINATION CAPE BRETON ASSOCIATION

Destination Cape Breton Association have been requested to provide an account of what the marketing levy money has been spent on.

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

Deputy Warden Patterson advised that David Harrison has been hired as the consultant to complete the report for the Age-Friendly Communities by March 31, 2016.

Deputy Warden Patterson requested permission to attend the Silver Summit in New Glasgow on March 7-9, 2016.

Council authorized that he attend. Warden Morrison will also be attending.

WAGMATCOOK FIRST NATION

A request was received from Brian Arbuthnot, Director of Operations, Wagmatcook First Nation, in support of their request to transfer certain lands being set aside as reserve lands in accordance with the INAC (Indigenous Affairs and Northern Development Canada) Policy and add the property to reserve status (Canada Lands).

It was moved and seconded that a letter confirming the Municipality has no objection to the transfer of this property to reserve status (Canada Lands) be forwarded to Wagmatcook First Nation. Motion carried.

BEAR HEAD LNG

A request was received that the Municipality provide support for the Bear Head LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) project.

It was moved and seconded that the Municipality forward a letter to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board in support of the Bear Head LNG Project. Motion carried.

EASTERN DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

It was moved and seconded that the appointments of EDPC staff to Municipal positions be approved as follows:

- **Administrator – Dangerous and Unightly Premises - Sean Donovan**
Alternate – John Bain
- **Building Inspector – David MacKenzie**
Alternates – Cyril LeBlanc, Leon LeBlanc, Harry Martell, and Sean Donovan
- **Special Constable – Sean Donovan**
- **Development Officer – Wanda Ryan**
Alternates – John Bain, Nathan MacLeod, and Andrew Jones
- **Fire Inspector – Leon LeBlanc**
Alternates – David MacKenzie, Cyril LeBlanc, and Sean Donovan

Motion carried.

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRES

A copy of a letter sent to Honourable Mark Furey, Minister of Business, from Mary Tulle, CEO, DCBA, expressing concern on the potential closure of Visitor Information Centres in Nova Scotia, particularly the Port Hastings location, was received.

It was moved and seconded that the Municipality forward a letter to the Honourable Mark Furey, Minister of Business, in support of retaining the Visitor Information Centres in Nova Scotia, particularly the Port Hastings location. Motion carried.

TAX ISSUES

Sandy Hudson brought forward two tax issues.

The first was the Kings Point Wharf Association. There is no land with this wharf, just the water lot the wharf is on. This property went to tax sale and did not sell. Total taxes owing are \$22,616.92.

It was moved and seconded that the Kings Point Wharf Association taxes in the amount of \$22,616.92 be written-off and contact PVSC regarding this account. Motion carried.

The second account is located in Nyanza and assessed to Roseanne McNeil. Property On-line removed this account in 2006, but did not send the information to PVSC. The account is still on the assessment roll and Mrs. McNeil has appealed her assessment as there is no land left that she should be assessed for. All the property in this location seems to be assessed to other people, so it appears that the property is being double assessed.

It was moved and seconded that the taxes owing in the amount of \$12,202.99 be written-off and contact PVSC regarding the status of the appeal for this account. Motion carried.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Municipality will be implementing a new Records Management system and in accordance with Section 34 of the *Municipal Government Act*, a Records Management Policy will be adopted. A draft policy will be forwarded to Council electronically and will be on the agenda for the next meeting,

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #1

Councillor MacNeil indicated that he addressed his concerns at the meeting with TIR officials.

District #2

Councillor Grant introduced a resolution regarding the Immigration Partnership, International and Aboriginal Affairs, CBU.

Whereas the staff at the Immigration Partnership Program at Cape Breton University have been very helpful in guiding Victoria County residents in their efforts to sponsor refugee families to the County; and

Whereas we think it is extremely important that Victoria County and all Cape Breton be active in supporting the resettlement of refugees to our Province; and

Whereas we understand the Program will need additional funding to continue;

It was moved and seconded that Victoria County Municipal Council thank Amanda McDougall and Craig Joseph for their tireless efforts over the past year and hereby request that the Provincial and Federal Governments take immediate measures to ensure long-term funding for this program, with copies to:

**Honourable Lena Diab, Provincial Minister of Immigration
Honourable John MacCallum, Federal Minister of Immigration
Amanda McDougall, CBU
Craig Joseph, CBU
Mark Eyking, MP, Sydney-Victoria
Rodger Cuzner, MP, Cape Breton-Canso
Pam Eyking, MLA, Victoria-The Lakes**

Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that a street light order be forwarded to NSPI for installation of a street light at Civic Address 223/227 Big Baddeck Road. Motion carried.

Councillor Grant indicated a concern with regard to a proposed change to the Subdivision Regulations for Victoria County. This item will be referred to John Bain, EDPC, for discussion.

Councillor Grant requested that Tom Wilson be asked to investigate the cost and feasibility of live streaming Victoria County Municipal Council sessions.

Councillor Grant advised that the topic of the public access to materials at the Waste Management Facilities has come up on a number of occasions. Perfectly good items are being deposited at the sites, and there is no way the public can access these materials.

Facility access improvement, what is done in other areas, and what can be done locally is to be investigated.

The silent auction for the Syria to Baddeck project raised \$9,400.00. The Lifeline Syria to Baddeck group now has sufficient money to sponsor one family, and is continuing to raise funds to sponsor a second family.

It was moved and seconded that the Municipality contribute \$1,000.00 to the Lifeline Syria to Baddeck project and a letter of appreciation be forwarded to the Gaelic College for hosting the silent auction event for this cause. Motion carried.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis questioned whether the Provincial Volunteer representative from Victoria County has been notified. The CAO will check with Tom Wilson on this matter.

Councillor MacInnis indicated that a welcoming event was held in his district last fall and he felt one should be held in all districts of the County.

Councillor MacInnis questioned on the status of a Fire Services Coordinator. There is nothing to report on this matter.

Councillor MacInnis questioned on the dates for the Ottawa Trip and Warden Morrison advised that it has been deferred until May.

The BABTA AGM will be held tomorrow evening.

District #6

It was moved and seconded that \$2,000.00 be approved from the District #6 budget for Ski Cape Smokey for bay door repair. Motion carried.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that in talking with Mark Eyking, MP, arrangements have been made to slow down the process of the demolition of the former RCMP building in Ingonish Beach. Expressions of interest will be accepted from organizations that may be interested in this building.

Councillor Dauphinee advised that a recent storm resulted in a great deal of coastline damage North of Smokey. In particular, the Ingonish Beach barrier was affected and upgrade to this barrier is required.

It was moved and seconded that our MP and MLA be contacted in regard to the Ingonish Beach Barrier outlining the serious concern with regard to the condition of the area and questioning on who is responsible for upgrades to this area. Motion carried.

Councillor Dauphinee indicated that in order to develop in the area of ski lodge and the Marina, access to water is key. The cost of hooking on to the County waterline was questioned.

It was moved and seconded that the CAO contact Strait Engineering Ltd. for a cost estimate to extend the waterline to the Marina/Ski Cape Smokey area. Motion carried.

District #3

Council met with Councillor Jim Mustard, Inverness County, prior to the meeting.

It was moved and seconded that Warden Morrison contact the Warden of Inverness County to discuss a proposal for further cooperation between the two counties. Motion carried.

IN CAMERA

It was moved and seconded to move In Camera to discuss a personnel issue.

REGULAR SESSION

It was moved and seconded to return to the regular session of Council.

ADJOURN

It was moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO