

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
July 25, 2016

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, July 25, 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. He advised that Faye MacDougall, Cape Breton Regional Library, will not be in attendance this evening as scheduled.

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved with the noted change. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2016

Courtesy of Council was extended to Ryan Armstrong and Kim Livingston, Grant Thornton LLP, who were in attendance to present Draft Non-Consolidated Financial Statements for the Municipality of the County of Victoria and the Victoria County Water Utility Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2016.

Kim Livingston thanked Council for the opportunity to appear. She advised that Ryan Armstrong would be providing an overview of the non-consolidated financial statements (copy attached).

Ryan Armstrong reviewed the non-consolidated operating funding balance sheet with Council. The Statement of Operations indicated that the Municipality ended the year with a \$4,921.00 operating surplus, based on a total budget of \$12,089,253.00.

Mr. Armstrong updated on taxes receivable and collection, liabilities and reviewed the capital fund balance sheet and statement of capital reserve, as well as the operating reserve balance sheet and statement of operating reserve.

The consolidated financial statements will be completed when the information from Highland Manor, Alderwood and the Victoria County Water Utility are available for inclusion.

Ms. Livingston presented the Victoria County Water Utility Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2016. She indicated that the audit was a clean audit conducted in compliance with the financial reporting standards for Nova Scotia water utilities as established by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.

Ms. Livingston reviewed the statement of operations and deficit showing operating revenues of \$776,102.00 and operating expenses of \$611,118.00, for an operating profit of \$164,984.00. Non-operating expenses amount to \$323,952.00. The deficit at the beginning of the year of \$1,802,731.00, coupled with the current year's deficit of \$158,968.00, indicates an accumulated deficit of \$1,961,699.00 as of March 31, 2016.

Warden Morrison advised that Council met as an Audit Committee prior to Council at 4:00 p.m. and reviewed the financial statements in detail.

Warden Morrison also questioned on the rating the external auditors would give to the Municipality for their financial operations and she indicated an A+ rating.

Ms. Livingston thanked the County staff and Council for their cooperation and assistance and Warden Morrison also extended a thank you to the auditors, staff and Council for the excellent work.

Mr. Armstrong and Ms. Livingston were presented with golf shirts from the Municipality.

Warden Morrison advised that for those in the audience, the financial statements presented this evening will be available for viewing on the Victoria County website tomorrow.

RECESS

The Warden advised that Council would recess for five minutes.

HEALTHY EATING IN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY RECREATION & SPORTS SETTINGS

Courtesy of Council was extended to Vince Forrestall, Physical Activity Strategy Coordinator; Sarah Ross, Public Health Nutritionist; and Aron Ashton, Public Health Educator,

who were in attendance to make a presentation on *Healthy Eating in Physical Activity Recreation & Sports Settings* (copy attached).

Mr. Forrestall presented a draft Healthy Eating in Municipal & Physical Activity Recreation Sports Settings Policy for Council consideration. He introduced a number of people in the audience who have worked together in developing the draft policy.

Aron Ashton, Public Health Educator, outlined poor eating habits in Nova Scotia. Only 31.5% surveyed in the former Cape Breton District Health Authority consumed greater than 5 fruit and vegetable servings per day. He provided some perspective on the health conditions in the Victoria County area. There are a number that are greater than the provincial average.

Common risk factors for major chronic diseases include unhealthy eating, overweight/obese and physical inactivity. 28% of the CBDHA population surveyed are overweight/obese.

Mr. Ashton presented numbers from the Victoria County Community Health Plan 2007. 80% reported at least one chronic health condition; 47% reported their food intake did not meet the Canada Food Guide requirements; and 30% reported a concern about being overweight.

Sarah Ross, Public Health Nutritionist, indicated that our food choices are shaped by the options available. She provided an example of burning calories in relation to what is consumed. Educating residents is important but evidence shows that using approaches such as policy and supportive environments work. She commended Victoria County for their adoption of a Breastfeeding Policy some time ago.

Ms. Ross presented information on a Food Policy: Scope, Components, Food and beverages served and sold and celebration and meeting examples.

Mr. Forrestall indicated that health eating initiatives have been included in the Municipal Physical Activity Strategy since its implementation. Healthy eating opportunities and exposure have been provided by organizations in various areas of the Municipality since 2012.

The Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board implemented the Nova Scotia Food & Nutrition Policy for all foods sold and served at schools in 2007.

He presented on the Healthy Eating in Recreation and Sports Settings and updated on what this means to Victoria County.

Mr. Forrestall indicated that they are requesting Council to approve the draft Healthy Eating in Municipal Physical Activity Recreation and Sports Settings Policy.

A general discussion took place and various questions were addressed.

It was moved and seconded to accept the draft Healthy Eating in Municipal & Physical Activity Recreation Sports Settings Policy. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison advised that Council would review the draft policy and it will be brought to a future Council meeting for approval.

Warden Morrison extended a thank you to the presenters for the information provided.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 11, 2016

The minutes of the July 11, 2016, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of July 11, 2016, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Housing Units

The CAO indicated that he spoke with Joan McKeough, Cape Breton Island Housing Authority, and she indicated she will make every effort to attend the August 29, 2016, session of Victoria County Municipal Council.

DNR

Councillor MacNeil questioned if the letter had been forwarded to DNR with regard to the beaver and flooding issue in MacKinnon Harbour.

This letter has been completed.

Baddeck Solid Waste Management Site – Tendering

The CAO provided all pertinent information on the recent tenders issued at the Baddeck Solid Waste Management Facility for C & D relocation, C & D site expansion, site grubbing, and tree clearing. A tender change was made in the relocation of the road which was an additional cost of \$24,000.00.

Pam Eyking, MLA

Two dates have been provided to Pam Eyking, MLA, for attending Council, but she has not replied as yet.

Fire Services Report

The Fire Services Study completed in 2011 was forwarded by email to Council. A copy was forwarded when received to the Chief Officers Committee and there were a number of items identified that required action by the fire service – dispatch services, training, etc.

The CAO advised that he inquired and was advised that there are two certified Level 1 firefighters in Victoria County. A number have taken training, but have not gone as far as certification.

Concern was expressed on a number of items that have been downloaded to fire departments such as medical first responders, traffic control at accidents, etc.

Councillor MacInnes brought up the frustration felt by the fire service with the downloading and indicated that they are volunteers.

The province is currently conducting a provincial fire services study and it was felt this study would outline requirements, minimum standards, etc.

Mile Brook Estates

The proposal received from Mile Brook Estates was discussed. The Victoria County Subdivision By-Law is before the Minister for approval.

They had requested that on sale of two of three lots, the paving of the continuation of Alexander Drive be completed by Mile Brook Estates. They will provide the Municipality with a letter of credit from the East Coast Credit Unit for the estimate of 115% of the cost of paving until such work is completed.

Work will be undertaken on the details of an agreement between the Municipality and Mile Brook Estates, so it will be ready when the Subdivision By-Law is approved. Whether a time limit should be established for the sale of the lots was discussed.

It was moved and seconded that the agreement should indicate that after a two year period if the required lots have not sold, application must be made again to the Municipality. Motion carried.

Social Media Policy

Councillor Grant indicated that he has received complaints about the illegal use of drones in the area. At the recent Festiville Baddeck, a drone flew over the public and this is highly illegal. There are federal aviation regulations with regard to drone usage and operators must obtain the appropriate pilot license to operate same.

Whether this item would be covered under the proposed Social Media Policy was questioned and discussed.

Sandy Hudson felt this would be addressed in the copy right, fair use and privacy laws section of the Social Media Policy.

Keltic Lodge Council Session

The August 15, 2016, Council Session will be held at the Keltic Lodge. To date, there are no scheduled presenters. Presenters will be identified for this meeting.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #1

Councillor MacNeil indicated he was contacted with regard to the Nugent property in Little Narrows. Mr. Nugent has requested that the Municipality release their portion of the property that provides access to the waterfront.

It is the policy of the County to retain water access for public access in the future and felt it would be best to keep this property in the public domain.

Mr. Nugent is to be advised of the County retaining this property.

Councillor MacNeil indicated that to date only one road in his district has been graded. The Washabuck Festival is approaching and work needs to be done on the Gillis Point Road prior to the festival.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and Pam Eyking, MLA, concerning the condition of the roads in District #1 and requesting a meeting to discuss same. Motion carried.

A meeting of the Water Committee will be held tomorrow at 4:30 p.m.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis questioned whether a meeting had been scheduled by BABTA with the community representatives/Councillors from each district.

The President of BABTA is to be requested to come to Council in Ingonish on August 15, 2016.

Councillor MacInnis brought up a concern he received about parking and lack of washroom facilities at the walking trail at White Point.

Councillor Budge indicated he is Councillor of this area and has not received this concern and until he does, he indicated the concern does not exist.

Councillor MacInnis questioned on the upcoming election. Advance polling will be electronic only and will take place between October 6 and 12, 2016. Paper ballot will be the only method for voting on Election Day, October 15, 2016.

Sandy Hudson, Returning Officer, indicated that more information will be forthcoming in the next month with regard to the Election.

Councillor MacInnis questioned whether anything was investigated with regard to washroom facilities at the former North Shore School. Councillor MacInnis is to check on the status of the water supply for this property.

District #8

Councillor Buchanan brought up a concern with regard to pooling water adjacent to the Marion/Michael Burton property on Mountainview Road, past the Post Office.

Robert Dauphinee, Director of Public Works, and Ricky Fraser, Dingwall Water Maintenance Man, will be requested to investigate.

Councillor Buchanan also requested an update on the painting of the water tower and the location of two hydrants at Capstick Manor and the Cape North Transfer Station.

The August 29, 2016, session of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held at the Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre, Bay St. Lawrence.

Councillor Buchanan commented on the fact that the lines on the roads are painted from Ingonish up, but nothing has been completed north of this area.

District #7

Councillor Budge questioned when the leak in the water tank at Neil's Harbour would be investigated.

A company has been retained to conduct a visual of the leak with a remote camera, and depending on the condition, the leak will be sealed from the inside and if not possible, a replacement tower will be installed within the year.

It was moved and seconded that \$500.00 be approved from the District #7 budget for the Neil's Harbour/New Haven Volunteer Fire Department for Halloween fireworks. Motion carried.

District #6

The lines on the road have been painted half way through Ingonish and the paint truck is in this area today.

The condition of the road on Smokey Mountain was brought up. There are no roadsides and guardrail is hanging unsupported.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal; Pam Eyking, MLA; and Stephen MacDonald, Area Manager, with regard to the condition of the road and roadsides on Smokey Mountain. Motion carried.

Councillor Dauphinee questioned whether a replay was received from Minister Miller, Department of Environment, with regard to protected lands. Sandy Hudson advised that a reply has not been received as yet.

District #5

Deputy Warden Patterson brought up the issue with regard to dogs in his district. Allowing dogs to roam unleashed in public places is a concern. It was felt that a flyer should be sent out and signs placed in public areas with regard to leashing dogs.

Sandy Hudson advised that leash and scoop dog signs are available for placement in public areas throughout the County.

Deputy Warden Patterson indicated that there are still a number of dead spots with regard to cell coverage on the Kempt Head Road, top of Kelly's Mountain and other areas of the County. He felt contact should be made with Bell Aliant in this regard.

The CAO advised that he has discussed the Tarbot area with Andrew Morrison, Bell Aliant, and the group of nine eastern municipalities will be sitting down with the Province and ACOA to discuss dead spots in all areas. This will be a lengthy process.

District #1

Councillor MacNeil brought up the matter of brush cutting on the roadsides in his district. The Department of TIR are to be requested to complete this work.

District #8

Councillor Buchanan brought up the condition of the lawn at the former RCMP Detachment at Ingonish Beach. The lawn has not been mowed and is an eyesore. Parks Canada owns the land and the RCMP own the building.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Parks Canada with regard to the condition of the grounds at the former RCMP Detachment at Ingonish Beach. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETINGS

A meeting of the Water Committee will be held at 4:30 p.m. on July 26, 2016, followed by an Economic Development Committee meeting at 5:00 p.m.

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held at the Keltic Lodge Resort on Monday, August 15, 2016, at 5:00 p.m.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

It was moved and seconded that the Social Media Policy for the Municipality of the County of Victoria be approved. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, it was moved that the meeting adjourn at 6:40 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Sandy Hudson, CAO

