

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
January 22, 2018

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Monday, January 22, 2018, beginning at 4:30 p.m. with Warden Bruce Morrison in the Chair.

Present were:

District #1 – Paul MacNeil
District #2 – Perla MacLeod
District #3 – Bruce Morrison, Warden
District #4 – Merrill MacInnis
District #5 – Fraser Patterson
District #6 – Larry Dauphinee, Deputy Warden
District #7 – Wayne Budge
District #8 – Norman MacDonald

Also present were:

Leanne MacEachen, Interim CAO
Heather MacLean, Recording Secretary

IN CAMERA

It was moved and seconded to move In Camera to deal with personnel and property issues. Motion carried.

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

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

EASTERN DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSION

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to David MacKenzie, Building Inspector, and John Bain, Director, Eastern District Planning Commission.

David MacKenzie advised that it is a legal requirement in Nova Scotia to obtain a building permit for any construction project over \$5,000.00 in value.

The Building Inspector reviews the building plans to ensure they meet all criteria of the National Building Code. Inspections are required for all work for which a building permit has been issued and the request for inspection must be made by applicant. Normal inspections include:

- Footer
- Foundation
- Framing
- Pre-Drywall
- Occupancy

Mr. MacKenzie also outlined the inspections required for mini and modular homes.

The building inspection procedure and the permit fee schedule were outlined. There is a brochure on the Eastern District Planning Commission website – www.edpc.ca outlining the above information and Mr. Bain indicated he would make this available to the County.

Questions were addressed about the building permit and inspection requirements.

John Bain presented a memo with regard to regulation of Recreational Vehicle Campground Sites. This refers to RV/travel trailer parks.

Council had asked the EDPC to look into the regulation of RV/Trailer parks in areas of the Municipality where there is no zoning regulations in place.

Mr. Bain indicated that the best means of addressing the issues associated with this type of land use is through a Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law, but in the absence of these documents he explained other options. He outlined the sections of the *Municipal Government Act* that are relevant - Section 172(1) and (2).

A copy of the Trailer By-Law in effect in Inverness County was provided. A by-law would be something the Municipality may want to investigate.

Discussion took place and Mr. Bain suggested that a Committee be formed and legal advice obtained and the EDPC can draft a document for consideration.

Councillor MacInnis explained that this issue came about when there was speculation an RV/Trailer campsite would be established in the New Campbellton area. He received many calls of concern.

John Bain indicated he would review the matter and send recommendations to the Committee and will expand further of the memo submitted.

Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Mr. Bain and Mr. MacKenzie for their presentations.

STRAIT AREA TRANSIT

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Jessie MacDonald, Officer Manager, and Jim Mustard, Board Chair, Strait Area Transit (SAT).

Ms. MacDonald provided the history of SAT which was established in 2007. She provided statistics on the passengers and fare income. People use transit for a number of reasons; to get to school and work, medical appointments, visiting friends and family, shopping and entertainment. Charters are also a big part of their business.

The current service provided by SAT to Inverness and Richmond Counties and the Town of Port Hawkesbury was outlined. The fare is \$5.00 to travel within these areas. Monthly passes can be purchased for \$100.00. Travel outside the coverage area is regulated by the UARB and the charge is \$.55/km. Charter rates are regulated and represent 5 hours of service.

Ms. MacDonald presented a map outlining the rural transportation service coverage in Nova Scotia.

Two options were presented for Victoria County's consideration. Strait Area Transit can petition the province on Victoria County's behalf to see what funding is available to provide transportation to all residents of Victoria County. SAT will be responsible for all expenses/revenues, statistics and provincial reporting. With the help of Council the services provided would be recommended and SAT would provide a vehicle and driver.

The second option would be that SAT petitions the province for available funding to establish a transit for Victoria County. Annually monies are available for capital and operating expenses. Victoria County would be responsible for providing a driver, vehicle, vehicle expenses, driver expenses and operating expenses. The administration services, required reporting, and the day to day transporting activities could be done by SAT.

Discussion took place and it was felt that the Councillors would know their areas and could provide information on what their residents need.

There is private enterprise within the County providing taxi service and it is important to work with the established resources to make any transit system provided mutually beneficial to both.

Warden Morrison indicated that since the County's last venture with transit services, they are a little hesitant and need the proper questions answered. It has to be determined if it is viable and a business plan must be developed.

Jessie MacDonald indicated that she could do a business plan with financials by the end of March, 2018, with the assistance of Council who will determine the need and requirements within their districts.

After further discussion, Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Jessie MacDonald and Jim Mustard for their presentation.

FINANCIAL UPDATE/TAXATION UPDATE

Leanne MacEachern presented the financial update to the end of December, 2017, and the projected expenses to year end March 31, 2018. She reviewed the content with Council and indicated that at this point a deficit of \$3,200.00 is projected at year end.

An update on taxation was also provided. Since the last meeting, \$48,725.00 has been collected on the current levy and \$35,511.00 on arrears. Total taxes owing remain at \$1,865,501.00, down \$45,341.00 from the same date last year, so there is an overall improvement.

The requirement for an Audit Committee and public membership on this Committee was discussed. It was indicated that the Town of Amherst have two lay members on their Audit Committee.

The use of collection agencies to collect taxes was discussed and it was indicated that the Town of New Glasgow use this service. Leanne MacEachern indicated she would contact the Tax Department to investigate.

RECESS

Warden Morrison advised that Council would recess for ten minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 8, 2018

The minutes of the Victoria County Municipal Council meeting of January 8, 2018, were presented for approval.

The district concerns referenced for District #6 should read District #5.

It was moved and seconded that the January 8, 2018, minutes of Victoria County Municipal Council be approved with the noted correction. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

KEITH MACDONALD

It was recently announced that Keith MacDonald, CEO and President, Cape Breton Partnership, has accepted the position of Chief Administrative Officer for the Municipality of the County of Inverness.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Keith MacDonald congratulating him on his new position. Motion carried.

NO DUMPING SIGNS

“No Dumping” signs have been erected in the area of the tower in Neil’s Harbour.

IONA PROPERTY

The property owned by the Municipality adjacent to the former Rankin Memorial School property cannot be given to the CBVRSB. It will be investigated if the CBVRSB wish to purchase this property.

CUPE LOCAL 2694 NEGOTIATIONS

CUPE Local 2694 has given notice that they wish to begin contract negotiations. The current collective agreement expires on March 31, 2018.

The Council Negotiating Committee will consist of Warden Morrison, Deputy Warden Dauphinee and Councillor Patterson.

NEW BUSINESS

EFFECTIVE MEETINGS

Some staff and Council attended an Effective Meetings Workshop last week and subsequent to that the Warden, Leanne MacEachen and Heather MacLean met to discuss the information received.

Warden Morrison indicated they discussed the following:

- eScribe – a paperless meeting and agenda management software
- Following Roberts Rules of Order for meetings and ordering “Roberts Rules of Order for Dummies” books for Council/staff use
- If Councillor knows they are making a motion at Council, they are to provide all Council/staff with the background information and proper wording of the motion
- No more “Business Arising From Minutes” – it will be Old Business
- In Camera meetings will be held at the beginning of Council meeting
- Proper protocol for presentations to Council
- No cell phones in meetings
- Look into electronic voting as is done in CBRM
- Possible development of Procedural Policy, Agenda Composition Policy, Delegation Policy

- Steps to making a motion and what topics can be discussed In Camera were sent to Council
- Meetings will begin on time – no waiting

Council agreed with the changes and this will be the process going forward.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #1

Councillor MacNeil indicated that Washabuck recently unveiled a tartan designed by Marie MacDonald from Washabuck. The tartan is to be registered with the Scottish Register of Tartans. A letter is required from the Municipality giving Marie MacDonald authority to register the tartan.

It was moved and seconded that a letter of support for the registration of the Washabuck Tartan be sent from the Warden to the Scottish Register of Tartans. Motion carried.

District #2

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Parkland Fuel Corporation requesting that they remediate the condition of their Cardlock fuel building west of Baddeck. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Honourable Lloyd Hines, Minister of TIR, requesting that an additional \$2 million for proper maintenance of the roads throughout Victoria County be approved in the 2018-2019 budget. Motion carried.

Councillor MacLeod advised that she put her name forward to become a member of the UNSM's Tourism Digital Rental Accommodations Committee.

Councillor MacLeod brought up the letter received from the NDP caucus and requested that representatives be invited to Council to explain Bill 60 – Maternity/Parental Leave for Councillors.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be sent to Stephen MacDonald, TIR, requesting consideration for ditching and maintenance and possible inclusion for paving of Hillcrest Road, Big Baddeck and the location of a street light at the intersection of the Big Baddeck/Old Margaree Road. Motion carried.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis advised of a meeting tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. at the Travel Lodge, Sydney, regarding the right whale and concerns associated with the fishery. It is a public meeting.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations of the In Camera meeting be approved. Motion carried.

District #8/District #5

Councillor MacDonald indicated he forwarded an email to Stephen MacDonald, TIR, in July, 2017, concerning a reduction in the speed at South Harbour coming out of the CBHNP through to residential area, including a local restaurant and zip line adventure. Bernie Murphy, Traffic and Engineering was to investigate.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to Bernie Murphy, TIR, questioning on the status of the request for a reduction in the speed zone as outlined and the status of the placement of signs on the turn before the former Grant's Store on the Kempt Head Road and questioning on why replies are not received within a quicker timeframe. Motion carried.

This letter is to be copied to Keith Bain, MLA.

District #7

Councillor Budge requested that a meeting of the Public Works Committee be held on Monday, January 29, 2018, to deal with the water utility.

A Budget Planning Session is also planned for that day at 9:00 a.m. The water operators, Robert Dauphinee and Kelly Brett will be contacted with regard to their availability and then the time for the meeting will be scheduled.

District #6

It was moved and seconded that a street light be ordered for 36233 Cabot Trail, Ingonish. Motion carried.

District #3

It was moved and seconded that a letter be written to Janet Knox, CEO, Nova Scotia Health Authority, stressing the importance of the NSHA hosting Town Hall meetings in Victoria County to address the physician shortage and recruitment, emergency room closures, recruitment of other health professionals, etc. and requesting that she have staff arrange and attend these sessions. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from residents of St. Ann's Bay concerning banning plastic bags in Victoria County.

This matter is to be deferred to Public Works.

2. Memo from Jennifer Shebib, Events Cape Breton, outlining the process to bid for the UNSM Spring Workshop in May, 2020.

It was moved and seconded to have Events Cape Breton submit the Municipality's bid to host the 2020 UNSM Spring Workshop. Motion carried.

Leanne MacEachen advised that the AMANS Fall Conference will be held at the Inverary Resort in October of this year and she is the Chair of the Organizing Committee.

TAX ARREARS ARRANGEMENT POLICY

Council reviewed the draft Tax Arrears Arrangement Policy and felt the word "Treasurer" should be changed to "CAO".

It was moved and seconded that the Tax Arrears Arrangement Policy be approved with the noted change. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETINGS

The Council Fire Service Committee will be meeting with representatives from the Chief Fire Officers after this meeting.

A session on FOIPOP will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, February 5, 2018, at the Court House, prior to Council.

The CBREN Rural Broadband Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 25, 2018.

The Raising the Villages Summit will be held on Wednesday, January 24, 2018, at 9:30 am at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre.

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, February 5, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. in the Court House, Baddeck.

District #2

Councillor MacLeod brought up the recent school bus accident on Kelly's Mountain with a parked trailer and she questioned on why a trailer could be left where it was and how to avoid

an accident like this in the future. Along with the trucking company, whether the RCMP or TIR would have responsibility in this regard was questioned.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, it was moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:20 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Leanne MacEachen, Interim CAO