

VICTORIA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
March 27, 2018

A meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council was held at the Court House, Baddeck, on Tuesday, March 27, 2018, beginning at 5:00 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, CAO
Heather MacLean, Recorder

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.

CABOT TRAIL WRITERS FESTIVAL

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Rebecca Silver-Slater, Festival Director, Cabot Trail Writers Festival.

Rebecca Silver-Slater extended regrets on behalf of Gary Walsh who was unable to attend this evening as he was out of town.

The Cabot Trail Writers Festival is a literacy festival featuring readings, author interviews and writing workshops, along with visual art, music and theatre presentations. Ms. Silver-Slater is the new Festival Director and assured Council that the festival would remain in Victoria County. The Gaelic College is the ideal place to hold this event.

The 2018 Festival will be held on the weekend of September 28-30, 2018, and will celebrate its 10th anniversary.

The festival is popular with both locals and visitors. In 2017 free on-site child care services were provided by a licensed daycare provider, as part of an effort to welcome and accommodate young families.

Attendance increased by 46 percent in 2017, with 969 participants in total. Revenues increased, book sales increased and the feedback received from survey responses was very positive.

2018's festival will be Ms. Silver-Slater's first festival as director and she outlined the complement of the festival board. It will be again a family friendly event with writing workshops for teens and children during the festival and in school workshops prior to the festival.

There will be an increased emphasis on the Gaelic, Acadian French and Mi'kmaq cultures and their literature and also an introduction of the festival book club.

Rebecca Silver-Slater thanked Council for their past support of the festival and indicated that a community grant application has been submitted for consideration in the Municipality's 2018-19 budget.

Council offered congratulations on the festival's success and the fact that this year is the 10th anniversary of the event.

More advertising of the festival in the Ingonish area was requested, as were increased school visits. Getting the schools involved and the interest of the youth is a key consideration.

Some Council members have participated in the past and all were encouraged to take part in the 2018 event.

Warden Morrison extended a thank you to Rebecca Silver-Slater for her presentation.

CAPE BRETON PARTNERSHIP

Courtesy of Council was extended to Patrick Austin, Economic Development Officer, Victoria County, CBREN, and Morgan Murray, Cape Breton Partnership.

Patrick Austin updated on CBREN activities. The Victoria County Community Profile will be up on website and be an important key when it comes to new business coming to Victoria County.

An Atlantic Immigration Pilot presentation was held at the Bras d'Or Yacht Club on March 5, 2018, and a further one will be held at the Smokey Recreation Centre in Ingonish Beach tomorrow at 4:00 p.m.

Patrick Austin updated on the impending marijuana legalization and what it meant to Victoria County. Nine NSLC stores in Nova Scotia will be selling recreational marijuana, with the closest in Cape Breton being in Sydney. Mr. Austin felt that a letter should be forwarded to the government, requesting a closer location to Victoria County, preferably in Baddeck.

It is unknown how the legalization will affect policing costs, black market sales, etc. so we will have to wait to see how this plays out. The micro-producer options and the cost of setting up such a business were discussed. The business start-up cost would be in the vicinity of \$500,000.00.

Twenty businesses participated in BRE (Business Retention and Expansion) training to date in 2018 and the feedback received was positive. Roundtables are continuing to be held throughout Victoria County.

The billeting of workers in Victoria County was also brought up and meetings will be held in late April/early May to investigate this option. It is estimated that workers are willing to travel up to 45 minutes for employment and there are a number of large homes throughout Victoria County whose owners may be willing to billet workers.

Further discussion took place on marijuana and the revenue the government will receive from same. There is no indication at present how much and how this revenue will be portioned out.

Discussion took place on BRE and the fact that it is also a major part of succession planning. The importance of strategic planning for businesses was also outlined.

Morgan Murray then presented on the Cape Breton Innovation District (copy attached). These districts look at innovation and building innovation systems. They look at structural solutions to grow the economy and population and cultural solutions to change what we value and how we do things. The Cape Breton Innovation District is under the mandate of Cape Breton University and the Cape Breton Partnership.

Innovation has many meanings and exists in many forms. It is a change that creates new value or improves the delivery or capture of value. It is new or better ways of doing valued things. It is creative activity with valuable consequences. Creativity is the heart of innovation.

To build an innovation system you must have creative courage; skills and tools; knowledge; institutions and organizations; policies; cultures; and places.

Cape Breton is and always has been home to diverse, creative, industrious, enterprising and innovative people. The creative island theme is a plan to transform Cape Breton into one of the most creative places on earth. It increases coordination, collaboration, promotion and

support within Cape Breton's innovation system through creativity, companies, inclusion, spaces, talent, technology and oceans.

The provision of space to be transformed into community innovation centres is where Victoria County could participate, as well as on planning committees and other opportunities as they arise.

Innovation hubs make sense and the history of innovation in Baddeck, lends to an ideal spot for a hub. There is funding available both federally and provincially to help create hub spaces.

Discussion took place and Patrick Austin and Morgan Murray were extended a thank you for their presentations and the information provided.

KEITH MACDONALD, CAO – INVERNESS COUNTY

Keith MacDonald, CAO, Municipality of the County of Inverness, was welcomed to the meeting.

CELTIC COLOURS PRESENTATION

Warden Morrison extended the courtesy of Council to Mike MacSween, Executive Director, Celtic Colours International Festival, who was in attendance to provide the 2017 Festival report (copy attached).

Mr. MacSween provided the Vision and Mission Statement for the Celtic Colours International Festival. He presented statistics on ticket sales, ballot data, live stream video views, website stats, etc.

In 2017, there were 22,107 tickets sold and he outlined the maple project that sees one maple planted throughout Cape Breton for every ticket sold, a total of 22,107 maples. The return to communities in 2017 was \$357,764, an increase of \$36,000.00. Audience expenditure totalled \$13.7 million across Cape Breton in 2017, up from \$13.2 million in 2016.

The Festival Club Shuttle Service, supported through a grant from the Municipality and NSLC, continues to be heavily used by visitors and locals. In 2017, the cost of the service was \$10,350.00 over the nine days. Approximately 300 accessed this service daily. The shuttle is a vital service and will continue in 2018.

The 2018 theme is "Connections" and the festival will take place from October 5-13, 2018. The launch will take place on June 22, 2018, at the AG Bell Museum from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. and the tickets go on sale on July 10, 2018.

Mr. MacSween indicated that an application for funding assistance for the shuttle service has been submitted.

Council members have participated as volunteers at Celtic Colour events and will continue to do so.

After further discussion, Deputy Warden Dauphinee extended a thank you to Mr. MacSween for his presentation.

RECESS

Deputy Warden Dauphinee advised that Council would recess for 5 minutes.

DANGEROUS AND UNSIGHTLY PREMISES

Courtesy of Council was extended to Sean Donovan, Administrator of Dangerous and Unsightly Premises.

Councillor Perla MacLeod declared a conflict of interest as she lives adjacent to one of the dangerous and unsightly premises.

Sean Donovan indicated that David MacKenzie, Certified Building Official, was in attendance also as he will be assuming responsibility for dangerous and unsightly in Victoria County. The complaints will still be directed through Mr. Donovan.

Christopher Belt

This property assessed to Christopher Belt, 50102 Cabot Trail, St. Ann's – PID 850267748 and AAN 00669628 – appears to be abandoned and is in a ruinous and dilapidated condition.

Mr. Donovan presented the Certified Building Officials report, along with pictures of the premises, and his recommendation as Administrator. It is recommended that an "Order to Remedy Condition" be issued and that the Order be a Demolition Order issued from Council to the owner and it be a 30 day Order that the dwelling be demolished and all debris removed and disposed of in the appropriate manner. If the property owner fails to comply, the Municipality will complete the work and recover the costs.

Mr. Donovan indicated that the property owner was notified of Proposed Demolition on March 9, 2018.

It was moved and seconded that an "Order to Remedy Condition" be forwarded to Christopher Belt and that the Order be a Demolition Order issued from Council to the

owner and it be a 30 day Order that the dwelling be demolished and all debris removed and disposed of in the appropriate manner. If the property owner fails to comply, the Municipality will complete the work and recover the costs. Motion carried.

Daniel Dunlap

Daniel Dunlap, 2207 Old Route 5, Big Bras d'Or – PID 85034759 and AAN 00965502 – was notified of a proposed demolition of his property on March 9, 2018. The dwelling is in a ruinous and dilapidated condition.

Mr. Donovan presented the Certified Building Officials report, along with pictures of the premises, and his recommendation as Administrator. It is recommended that an “Order to Remedy Condition” be issued and that the Order be a Demolition Order issued from Council to the owner and it be a 30 day Order that the dwelling be demolished and all debris removed and disposed of in the appropriate manner. If the property owner fails to comply, the Municipality will complete the work and recover the costs through taxation.

Mr. Donovan indicated that the property owner was notified of Proposed Demolition on March 9, 2018. Councillor Patterson indicated that he has spoken to the owner who is requesting an extension to the end of August to complete the work due to a medical issue. Mr. Donovan has spoken to Mr. Dunlap also.

It was moved and seconded that an “Order to Remedy Condition” be forwarded to Daniel Dunlap and that the Order be a Demolition Order issued from Council to the owner and it be an Order that the dwelling be demolished and all debris removed and disposed of in the appropriate manner by August 31, 2018. If the property owner fails to comply, the Municipality will complete the work and recover the costs. Motion carried.

John Forcieu Karr

John Forcieu Karr, 49726 Cabot Trail, Goose Cove – PID 85042802 and AAN 03080412 – was notified on March 9, 2018, of a proposed demolition of his property. This dwelling is in a ruinous and dilapidated condition.

Mr. Donovan presented the Certified Building Officials report, along with pictures of the premises, and his recommendation as Administrator. It is recommended that an “Order to Remedy Condition” be issued and that the Order be a Demolition Order issued from Council to the owner and it be a 30 day Order that the dwelling be demolished and all debris removed and disposed of in the appropriate manner. If the property owner fails to comply, the Municipality will complete the work and recover the costs.

It was moved and seconded that an “Order to Remedy Condition” be forwarded to John Forcieu Karr and that the Order be a Demolition Order issued from Council to the

owner and it be a 30 day Order that the dwelling be demolished and all debris removed and disposed of in the appropriate manner. If the property owner fails to comply, the Municipality will complete the work and recover the costs. Motion carried.

William Penny and Carol MacLean

William Penny and Carol MacLean, 40901 Cabot Trail, Wreck Cove – PID 85038081 and AAN 03713539 – was notified of a proposed demolition of their property on March 9, 2018. The dwelling and shed on this property are in ruinous and dilapidated condition.

Mr. Donovan presented the Certified Building Officials report, along with pictures of the premises, and his recommendation as Administrator. It is recommended that an “Order to Remedy Condition” be issued and that the Order be a Demolition Order issued from Council to the owner and it be a 30 day Order that the dwelling be demolished and all debris removed and disposed of in the appropriate manner. If the property owner fails to comply, the Municipality will complete the work and recover the costs.

It was moved and seconded that an “Order to Remedy Condition” be forwarded to William Penny and Carol MacLean and that the Order be a Demolition Order issued from Council to the owners and it be a 30 day Order that the dwelling be demolished and all debris removed and disposed of in the appropriate manner. If the property owner fails to comply, the Municipality will complete the work and recover the costs. Motion carried.

Cora Standing

Cora Standing (power of attorney), 142 Zion Road, Southside Big Baddeck, PID 85016699 and AAN 04409698 – was notified of a proposed demolition of her property on March 9, 2018. The dwelling on this property is in ruinous and dilapidated condition.

Mr. Donovan presented the Certified Building Officials report, along with pictures of the premises, and his recommendation as Administrator. It is recommended that an “Order to Remedy Condition” be issued and that the Order be a Demolition Order issued from Council to the owner and it be a 30 day Order that the dwelling be demolished and all debris removed and disposed of in the appropriate manner. If the property owner fails to comply, the Municipality will complete the work and recover the costs.

It was moved and seconded that an “Order to Remedy Condition” be forwarded to Cora Standing (power of attorney) and that the Order be a Demolition Order issued from Council to the owner and it be a 30 day Order that the dwelling be demolished and all debris removed and disposed of in the appropriate manner. If the property owner fails to comply, the Municipality will complete the work and recover the costs. Motion carried.

Councillor MacInnis brought up two other properties in his district. Sean Donovan indicated that he as Administrator can issue a Clean-Up Order which has been done. He will revisit the properties after the deadline to see if they have complied and if not further action will be taken.

Councillor MacNeil brought up a property adjacent to the Rankin School in Iona. Mr. Donovan indicated he has nothing on the file for this property. A formal complaint will have to be filed and then he can open on file on this property.

Further discussion took place and Mr. Donovan was extended a thank you for his attendance and assistance with dangerous and unsightly premises issues.

Councillor MacLeod re-entered the meeting at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 5, 2018

The minutes of the March 5, 2018, meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council were presented for approval.

It was moved and seconded that the Victoria County Municipal Council minutes of March 5, 2018, be approved as presented. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Traffic Counts

The traffic counts that were brought up at the last meeting and the cost of same were questioned. Why the Municipality should bear the costs for traffic volume and traffic classification costs at \$400 and \$450 respectively were discussed.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of TIR expressing Council's dismay on the department charging municipalities for traffic counts. Motion carried.

Stephen MacDonald was contacted and he indicated there was money in the budget for traffic counts. Clarification is to be requested on the traffic counts prior to letter be sent to the Minister.

NSGovLab

Councillor Patterson advised that he was unsuccessful in his application for NSGov Lab and thanked Council for their support of his application.

NEW BUSINESS

Epilepsy Month

Council previously approved the proclamation of March as “Epilepsy Month” and will have a picture taken later in the meeting wearing the Epilepsy Month purple ribbons.

Family Medicine Retreat

Leanne MacEachen advised that the Family Medicine Retreat will be held at the Digby Pines on September 21, 2018. It is a one day event and to have a table at this event would cost in the vicinity of \$1,500.00. The retreat is sponsored by the Dalhousie School of Medicine.

Public Works

The reuse building at the Baddeck Solid Waste Management Facility will open on April 21, 2018, in conjunction with Earth Day which is celebrated on April 22, 2018.

The heavy garbage collection will be held starting on the week of April 30, 2018. South of Smokey will be done by municipal resources and the northern area will be contracted.

A couple of Councillors received concern that this is too early and the summer cabins will not open until later in May.

Interviews were done for Water Operators but one person backed out during the interview and the other turned the position down. The part-time position was re-advertised with a deadline for next week and depending on the outcome, will see where to go with regard to the full-time position.

All areas with water system still have coverage through contract extensions.

TAXATION UPDATE

The CAO advised that the taxes outstanding are down approximately \$100,000.00 from this time last year. A Tax Sale was held on March 20, 2018, where four properties sold and in the past three weeks \$169,000.00 has been collected.

Five property searches have been received in the past couple of days that are ready to be put to Tax Sale.

Inverness County recently had a Tax Sale where 56 properties were sold. How they achieved this and the risk they were willing to take is to be investigated.

Council congratulated the CAO and staff on the good work collecting outstanding taxes and discussion took place on our Municipal Indicators tax status.

DISTRICT CONCERNS

District #8

Councillor MacDonald questioned whether a reply had been received to the letter concerning the Money Point Quarry.

No reply has been received as yet. Concern with regard to the County wells was discussed. The Hydrologist is also concerned.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Premier, and the Minister of Environment, as the regulatory department, requesting a response to Council's request for a public meeting to discuss the proposed expansion of the Money Point Quarry, and a copy of this letter be forwarded to Dexter Construction and Keith Bain, MLA. Motion carried.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis questioned on Brent Partland's request for funding for Search and Rescue training for he and his dog.

What Council approved is to be investigated for clarity.

Councillor MacInnis indicated that the road to Wreck Cove Hydro from the Cabot Trail was to have been completed last year but NSPI backed out of having it done.

It was moved and seconded that a letter of support for the remediation of this road to Wreck Cove Hydro from the Cabot Trail be sent to NSPI. Motion carried.

District #2

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Education asking that a representative come to County to explain how the new model will work with one school board for the entire province. Motion carried.

Councillor MacLeod indicated that a package should be put together for the Family Physician Retreat in Digby.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be sent to the Department of TIR requesting "Share the Road" signs for the Big Baddeck Loop and requesting patching be

completed on the Big Baddeck Road starting at Civic Address 948 to 1220 Big Baddeck Road. Motion carried.

Councillor MacLeod asked that Chief Norman Bernard be contacted with regard to a joint meeting.

Councillor MacLeod requested that a meeting to discuss the UNSM priorities, and what Victoria County considers as priorities, be held before the deadline.

The district numbers of transit surveys is to be provided to SAT before the first week in April.

District #1

Councillor MacNeil met with the Minister of TIR and reported the following:

- The go ahead has been given for a turning lane at Irving/Tim Horton's and this will necessitate a lowering of the speed limit
- The completion of the Kempt Head Road was brought to the Minister's attention and he wrote it down
- No update on the Seal Island Bridge
- There is extra funding in the TIR budget for distribution this year
- The completion of the Gillis Point Road was discussed with the Minister and he wrote this issue down and will see what can be done to have the road completed.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of TIR requesting that upgrading of the gravel roads throughout Victoria County be completed this construction season from the extra money allotted for gravel road upgrades. A copy of this letter is to be forwarded to Gerard Jessome, Darren Blunden, Stephen MacDonald and Keith Bain, MLA. Motion carried.

- There is funding for trimming of the roadsides in the budget for this year
- Request to repave the bridge at Iona
- Ferry Rates/Bridges – no plans for bridge but will consider the elimination of ferry fees and a flush toilet will be installed at the Englishtown Ferry
- Route 223 from Little Narrows to Ottawa Brook should be resealed this year

Councillor MacNeil had a request from a resident about the support the county would provide to search and rescue team based out of Guysborough. He provided the name of Tony Sampson as a contact. He will forward the email with the pertinent information.

The street lights are still out on the bridge in Iona.

District #3

Warden Morrison indicated that the pre-primary program to be instituted this coming school term may have an effect on the Baddeck Nursery School, as the space in the school used by the nursery school at present may be needed for the pre-primary program.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be sent to Paul Oldford, CBVRSB, questioning on the status of the space at Baddeck Academy now used by the Baddeck Nursery School with the announcement of the pre-primary program. Motion carried.

Warden Morrison indicated that he has heard that the lab at the Victoria County Memorial Hospital is being reviewed with a possibility of closure. There are 2 positions in the lab at present which will be lost if this happens.

It was moved and seconded that a letter be forwarded to the NSHA asking that an update be provided on the status of the lab at Victoria County Memorial Hospital. Motion carried.

When Scotia Windfield erected the windmill in the Baddeck area, there was a donation to be made to a community group as part of the project. The status of this donation is to be investigated.

Warden Morrison indicated that Chief Norman Bernard and the Band Council should be invited to a joint meeting with Victoria County Municipal Council at which time Council can do a formal recognition of First Nations grounds. The ceremony to take place would be of Wagmatcook's choice and would be held in May or June.

District #5

Councillor Patterson indicated that black bags are being left in Victoria County residents' garbage boxes. Our collectors are tagging the black bags and leaving them behind. He has discussed this matter with Public Works. It was felt the easiest solution would be to encourage residents to lock garbage boxes.

District #4

Councillor MacInnis brought up the agricultural land issue. A meeting was held in Mabou in this regard with 35 in attendance and one scheduled for Middle River was cancelled due to inclement weather but will be rescheduled. This is an important issue that Council should keep in mind.

District #6

It was moved and seconded that a letter be sent to Department of TIR asking on when the repairs to the two bumps at Ingonish Ferry will be undertaken, the status of the webcam for North Shore, the status of the look off on top of Smokey Mountain and that a meeting be held with businesses and the contractor when the paving tender is awarded for Ingonish to discuss traffic flow issues. Motion carried.

District #2

It was moved and seconded that a letter be sent to Rose MacIsaac, Facility Manager, VCMH, questioning if the emergency department will remain open at all times once the new doctor comes to the area. Motion carried.

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

It was moved and seconded that the members of the Age-Friendly Communities Implementation Team be Warden Morrison, Deputy Warden Dauphinee, Councillors MacLeod, MacInnis, Patterson and MacDonald, Noreen MacLean, Brad Maxwell, Vince Forrestall and Dr. Trudy O'Keefe. Motion carried.

MUNICIPAL ASSET MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Leanne MacEachen indicated that discussion was held previously on an Asset Management Program. There is 80% funding through the FCM and a resolution is required from Council.

It was moved and seconded that the following resolution be adopted. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION
MUNICIPAL ASSET MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Victoria County Municipal Council directs staff to apply for a grant opportunity from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' *Municipal Asset Management Program* for an Asset Inventory.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Municipality of the County of Victoria commits to conducting the following activities in its proposed project submitted to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' *Municipal Asset Management Program* to advance our asset management program.

- Analyze current assets
- Get GPS coordinates
- Develop asset management plans

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipality of the County of Victoria commits \$12,500.00 from its budget toward the costs of this initiative.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Eric LeBel, CBHNP, acknowledging receipt of Council's letter concerning lighting on the Effie's Brook Bridge and advising that there will hopefully be a solution to this matter during the bridge replacement construction project.
2. A letter was received requesting that consideration be given to extending the Dingwall Water supply to Cape North.

The water extension is on the Municipality's Infrastructure Priority list and the CAO will ask Robert Dauphinee, Director of Public Works, to contact Councillor MacDonald to discuss this issue.

Councillor MacDonald indicated that the minutes of May 29, 2017, indicate that the Municipality was to provide a letter of support to Brent Partland and each Council member was to provide \$375.00 from their district budget to fund the Mutual Aid Asset K-9 SAR Team for the current year.

IN CAMERA

It was moved and seconded to move In Camera to deal with a legal issue. Motion carried.

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

It was moved and seconded to accept the recommendations of the In Camera meeting. Motion carried.

MEETING WITH FIRE CHIEFS

Council representatives are to meet with representatives of the Fire Chiefs Committee at the Indian Brook Fire Hall, on April 3, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. to discuss fire related issues and the hiring of a part-time fire services coordinator.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Victoria County Municipal Council will be held on Monday, April 9, 2018, at the Court House, Baddeck.

UNITED WAY

Councillor MacInnis indicated he was contacted by the United Way representative concerning their golf tournament in Bein Eoin and questioning if the County would like to enrol a team in the event.

The Municipality wishes to keep participation in golf tournaments to Victoria County events.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, it was moved to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

Bruce Morrison, Warden

Leanne MacEachen, CAO

