

Municipal Council Meeting
April 3, 2017
1:30 pm

A meeting of municipal council was held on Monday April 3, 2017 at 1:30 pm at the municipal building in Port Hood with the following in attendance:

Warden Betty Ann MacQuarrie
Deputy Warden Alfred Poirier
Councillor Laurie Cranton
Councillor John MacLennan
Councillor John Dowling
Councillor Jim Mustard

Staff: Joe O'Connor, CAO
Ellen Murphy, Council Recorder
Donna MacDonald, Dir/Recreation & Tourism
Amey Beaton
Harold MacIsaac, Solicitor

Media: Grant MacDaniel, Reporter
Rankin MacDonald, Inverness Oran
Brendan Shaughnessy, 1015thehawk

Warden Betty Ann MacQuarrie called the meeting to order at 1:37 pm. The Warden welcomed members of the Waycobah and Wagmatcook M'ikmaq communities, as well as the Indian Bay drummers. Also in attendance were Councillor Perla MacLeod from Victoria County and Mayor Brenda Chisholm Beaton of Port Hawkesbury

APPROVAL OF MINUTES APRIL 3, 2017

Moved by Councillor Cranton
Seconded by Councillor Dowling
Carried

That the minutes of the municipal council meeting of April 3, 2017, be approved

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor Dowling asked if the letter had been sent to Department of Transportation regarding the crosswalk request in Port Hastings. A letter will be sent tomorrow.

Warden MacQuarrie asked if there was councillor interested on sitting on the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere committee ex ficio. It was decided that more information was needed before a councillor would commit.

Presentation by Ged Stonehouse – Stonehouse Marketing Group
Presentation by Beth Jackson – Alzheimer's Society of NS
Presentation by Steve Smith & Bill Fraser – St. Martha's Charitable Foundation

Committee Reports

Audit – March 6

**Moved by Councillor Mustard
Seconded by Councillor Cranton
Carried**

Policy – March 13–

**Moved by Councillor Dowling
Seconded by Councillor MacLennan
Carried**

Audit – March 28

**Moved by Deputy Warden Poirier
Seconded by Councillor MacLennan
Carried**

Correspondence

A letter will be sent to Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton regarding the Port Hawkesbury Airport.

**Moved by Councillor MacLennan
Seconded by Dowling
Carried**

A letter of thanks was received from the ROC for the contribution to the expansion and renovations to their facility.

There was also a thank you from the Syrian family in Margaree for the county's contribution.

Petitions and Resolutions

Councillor Poirier

- The Royal Canadian Legion has put together a Vimy Ridge presentation which the municipality did contribute to
- The Parsons building has been demolished
- The Old Redman Road was not plowed since last Thursday, March 30 and the Old Cabot Trail Road went 48 hours without being plowed.
- The marketing levy is not being paid by all business owners. Why and what can be done by the municipality. Joe O'Connor, CAO responded by saying there is a municipal bylaw in place, but the businesses' books would have to be audited in order to know for sure if the levy is being collected and remitted.

Moved by Deputy Warden Poirier
Seconded Councillor Dowling
Motion Carried

A motion was made to write a letter to Steve MacDonald or Cecil Gosbee of Dept of Transportation asking why the Old Redman Road and the Old Cabot Trail Road were not plowed.

Deputy Warden Poirier
Councillor Cranton
Motion Carried

A motion was made to carry out the appropriate action regarding the marketing levy to find out if the levy is being collected

Councillor Mustard

- The Dindoff property, Cyril LeBlanc met with them and Joe will check with the planning commission to see what is the next step
- There will be a meeting in Jim's office to discuss the Inverness water on April 12
- Thank you to Melanie Beaton, the municipality and ACOA on the success of the façade program
- There will be discussion on the housing strategy at the audit meeting on April 11

Councillor Cranton

- Office space has been confirmed at the Cranton Crossroads Community Centre
- At the meeting with the transportation minister, council was told the debris would be removed from around the Cranton bridge and he would like a time line on when this repairs will be carried out
- He will also drive around his district with Steve MacDonald, Department of Transportation to look at the condition of roads
- There be a meeting arranged of the Margaree Airport committee on April 10 in Cranton Crossroads Community Centre

Councillor Cranton
Seconded by Councillor MacLennan
Motion Carried

A motion was made that a letter be written to Geoff MacLellan, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, asking for a timeline on repairs to the Cranton Bridge.

Councillor MacLennan

- Could a letter be written and sent to the Minister of Natural Resources regarding the Whycomagh Provincial Park and the Canada 150 celebrations
- A letter of congratulations be sent to the local papers congratulating the Cape Breton West Islanders on winning the Atlantic Championship

Moved by Councillor MacLennan
Seconded by Deputy Warden Poirier
Carried

That a letter be written to the Minister of Natural Resources regarding the Whycomomagh Provincial Park

Moved by Councillor MacLennan
Seconded by Councillor Cranton
Motion Carried

That a letter be sent to the local papers congratulating the Cape Breton West Islanders on winning the Atlantic Championship

Councillor Dowling

- Thank you to Mayor of Port Hawkesbury, Brenda Chisholm-Beaton for attending today's council meeting
- Councillor's parents are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. He has a plaque of congratulations from the municipality to present to them.
- Condolences are offered to the family of the cyclist who was killed at the causeway
- The Canso Causeway has been closed 3 times in recent weeks due to weather and the last time due to an accident involving a cyclist. The fire department in Port Hastings raised concerns about traffic being backed up in the rotary and the possible need to get emergency equipment out.
- A letter will be written to the Premier of Nova Scotia and the minister of transportation regarding an alternate route off the island if the causeway is closed for undetermined lengths of time.
- Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton responded by saying that there is a working committee being put together to create a new plan for emergencies where the causeway affects 5 municipal units on Cape Breton Island.
- Can a dispatcher be called if a boat needs to go through the canal
- Can there be a communication plan that includes councillors being called when the causeway is closed? What is the current protocol? It is not working.

Moved by Councillor Dowling
Seconded by Deputy Warden Poirier
Motion Carried

That a letter be written to the premier and the minister of transportation asking about an alternate route off Cape Breton Island in the event that the Canso Causeway is closed for any length of time especially an emergency

Warden MacQuarrie turned meeting over to Deputy Warden Poirier

- A letter was written and emailed to the school board in support of "Status Quo" for the Dalbrae Feeder System
- The warden received a letter via email from the Inverness South Fisherman's Association regarding the condition of the Mabou Coal Mines Road. The letter stated the condition of the road that is travelled by fisherman and fish buyer's during the fishing season and they would like it repaired before more permanent damage is done.
- The warden invited everyone to the open houses being held for the proposed changes to the Port Hood Planning Strategy. They will be held on April 6 from 7-9, April 8 10-2 and April 11 from 7-9 all at the St. Peter's Parish Hall in Port Hood. She will email the schedule to the councillors.

Deputy Warden turned the meeting back over to Warden MacQuarrie

With no further business to discuss a motion was made by Councillor MacLennan, seconded by Councillor Dowling that the meeting adjourn at 5:06pm.

Next council meeting May 1, 2017 at 1:30pm