

**MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2017
1:30 PM**

A meeting of Municipal Council of the County of Inverness was held on Monday, January 9, 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 Jim Mustard
Councillor John MacLennan
Councillor John Dowling

Staff: Joe O'Connor, CAO
Eveylena Gillis, Council Recorder
Garett Beaton, Dir/Public Works
Damian MacInnis, Econ. Dev. Officer
Harold MacIsaac, Solicitor
Maurice Boudreau, Solicitor

Media: Rankin MacDonald, Inverness Oran
Grant McDaniel, Reporter

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Betty Ann MacQuarrie called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and wished everyone a "Happy New Year".

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 5, 2016

Moved by: Deputy Warden Alfred Poirier
Seconded by: Councillor John MacLennan
Carried.

That the Minutes of the Municipal Council meeting of December 5, 2016, be approved.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Page 3 – Inverside Residents – Councillor Mustard advised that a meeting was held with the residents of Inverside and a proposal for the cost of sewer & water is going to be put together.

SECOND READING OF BY-LAW #47 RESPECTING CHARGES FOR THE PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM

Moved by: Councillor Jim Mustard

Seconded by: Councillor Laurie Cranton
Carried.

That the Second Reading of By-Law #47 Respecting Charges for the Property Assessed Clean Energy Program be approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AUDIT – DECEMBER 5, 2016

Moved by: Councillor John MacLennan
Seconded by: Councillor John Dowling
Carried.

Resolved that the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting of December 5, 2016, be approved and that the recommendations made to Council therein, and the motions passed therein are hereby adopted, approved and passed by Council.

FOYER PERE Fiset HOME – CHETICAMP

Deputy Warden Alfred Poirier reported that there was a problem with the sprinkler system at the Foyer Pere Fiset in Cheticamp which caused extensive water damage. It could possibly cost up to 1 million dollars to repair.

FOOD SECURITY

Councillor Jim Mustard reported that he attended a Food Hub meeting in Sydney and they are in the process of hiring two people.

INVERNESS & PORT HOOD FAÇADE & STREETScape PROJECTS

The Inverness Façade & Streetscape is almost complete.
Work is being done on the design for the Port Hood Façade & Streetscape.

REGIONAL ENTERPRISE NETWORK – REN

A REN meeting was held in December and the Inter Municipal Agreement was reviewed.

Moved by: Councillor Jim Mustard
Seconded by: Councillor Laurie Cranton
Carried.

That REN Inter Municipal Agreement with Inverness, Richmond and Victoria Counties be signed with noted changes in 16 (d).

STRAIT AREA MAYORS & WARDENS

A Strait Area Mayors & Wardens meeting was held in December and it was agreed that the port continue to operate without forming a Port Authority. There was unanimous support for the Energy East Pipeline.

CORRESPONDENCE

GUY CARON – MP – TAXATION ON FAMILY BUSINESS TRANSFERS

Moved by: Councillor Laurie Cranton
Seconded by: Deputy Warden Alfred Poirier
Carried.

That Council support Bill C-274 re Transfer of Small Business, Family Farm, or Fishing Operation.

MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION

- Yearly fall grading has been carried out on the LaPrairie and Island Light Road.
- Siltation issues on LeFort Road – TIR & NSE will continue to monitor the site to ensure the mitigation measures meet NSE requirements.

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT

The Minister of Environment advised that pesticide products in Canada are Federally regulated by the Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency of Health Canada.

Moved by: Councillor Laurie Cranton
Seconded by: Councillor John Dowling
Carried.

That the Cape Breton Highland National Park be contacted as to what plans are in place for pesticide spraying in the near future.

PETITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Deputy Warden Alfred Poirier

Windmill in Grand Etang – The windmill in Grand Etang collapsed during the storm in late December.

Cell Service – Pleasant Bay – Cell service continues to be a problem. Deputy Warden Poirier is in the process of setting up a meeting with Mark Eyeking and other interested parties.

Paving – Paving has been postponed until the spring.

Councillor John MacLennan

Guard Rail – Councillor MacLennan would like to have a guard rail installed on Cameron Road in West Lake Ainslie.

Salt Mountain – There have been a number of rock slides over the past number of years.

Cell Service & Broadband Service – There is also a problem with Cell service and Broadband service in Councillor MacLennan’s district.

Beaver Dams – There is a problem with beaver dams in District 4 and Councillor MacLennan questioned what government department is responsible. Joe O’Connor will get this information.

Private Driveways – Councillor MacLennan questioned the criteria for bringing a private road up to TIR standards which would enable them to get snow plow service. The Public Roads Standards By-Law is on the Municipal web site.

Councillor Laurie Cranton

Syrian Family – A new Syrian family has moved into the Belle Cote area and Councillor Cranton questioned how they access Municipal funding. Joe O’Connor advised that the sponsoring organization should contact his office.

MARGAREE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Councillor Cranton expressed concern that the funding provided to the Margaree VIC is not provided on a timely basis and therefore leaves the VIC short of funds at the beginning of the tourism season.

Moved by: Councillor Laurie Cranton
Seconded by: Councillor Jim Mustard
Carried.

That correspondence be forwarded to Nova Scotia Tourism with a copy to Destination Cape Breton in support of the Visitor Information Centres in Margaree and Inverness.

Micarme Centre – For information purposes the Micarme Centre has a proposal for funding for an upgrade to their heating system.

Storm Damage – Councillor Cranton advised that a homeowner on the Lake O’Law brook had damage to their property during the storm in October. Joe O’Connor advised that funding is available through the Federal Government.

Sign – Coady Road sign leading to Hwy 395 – Councillor Mustard will contact Steve MacDonald.

Public Works Building – Strathlorne – Councillor Cranton asked that a sign be installed naming the public works building in Strathlorne.

Councillor John Dowling

Demolition Order - On question from Councillor Dowling re demolition order for Gerald Moffatt property Joe O'Connor advised that the demolition order was posted on property. The next step is to have the building demolished by a contractor or the public works dept.

School Closures/Bus Cancellations – Councillor Dowling questioned how the school board determines school closures and bus cancellations. Councillor Dowling will send a letter to the SRSB.

COUNCILLOR JIM MUSTARD

Wind Turbine By-Law – Councillor Mustard asked that a meeting be set up with the EDPC to review the Wind Turbine By-Law.

DISTRICT AREA ADVISORY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Moved by: Councillor Jim Mustard
Seconded by: Councillor John Dowling
Carried.

That an advertisement be placed in the newspaper for members on a District Area Advisory Planning Committee for District 4.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Moved by: Councillor Jim Mustard
Seconded by: Councillor John Dowling
Carried.

That a request for proposal be advertised for the purpose of outlining strategic planning for Councillors.

Municipal Councillor Offices – Councillor Mustard asked that the draft policy for office space for Councillors be referred to a policy meeting.

Fences & Arbitration Committee – Councillor Mustard will discuss the cattle issue with Solicitor MacIsaac.

Dindoff Unsightly Premises – Joe O'Connor advised that he has been in contact with Mike Towle who was interested in meeting at the Dindoff house with EDPC but no date has been set.

Early Years Coalition – A meeting is being held at the Civic Center in Port Hawkesbury on January 24th.

Warden MacQuarrie turned chair over to Deputy Warden.

Warden Betty Ann MacQuarrie**PORT HOOD WHARF & PORT HOOD ISLAND WHARF**

Warden MacQuarrie advised that the Port Hood Wharf and the Port Hood Island Wharf were both sustained extensive damage during the storm in January. The County owns the Port Hood Wharf and has an interest in the Port Hood Island Wharf.

Moved by: Warden Betty Ann MacQuarrie
Seconded by: Councillor Laurie Cranton
Carried.

That further discussion take place at a committee meeting with regard to the possibilities of making both wharves operational as well as the problem with beach erosion.

MABOU & DISTRICT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Moved by: Warden Betty Ann MacQuarrie
Seconded by: Councillor John Dowling
Carried.

That a loan guarantee in the amount of \$150,000 be approved for the Mabou & District Volunteer Fire Department.

Warden MacQuarrie returned to the Chair.

John MacLennan**VALLEY MILLS BRIDGE**

Moved by: Councillor John MacLennan
Seconded by: Councillor John Dowling
Carried.

That a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation as to the work status on the Valley Mills Bridge and also include the previous request for a guard rail on Cameron Road in West Lake Ainslie.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss a motion was made by Deputy Warden Poirier, seconded by Councillor MacLennan that meeting adjourn.

CLERK

WARDEN