

Municipal Council Meeting
February 6, 2017
1:30 pm

A meeting of municipal council was held on Monday February 6, 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
Eveylena Gillis, Council Recorder
Garett Beaton, Dir/Public Works
Damian MacInnis, Econ Dev Off
Harold MacIsaac, Solicitor

Media: Grant MacDaniel, Reporter
Rankin MacDonald, Inverness Oran

Warden Betty Ann MacQuarrie called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES JANUARY 9, 2017

Moved by John MacLennan
Seconded by Alfred Poirier
Carried

That the minutes of the municipal council meeting of January 9, 2017, be approved

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Page 3 - No plans to spray in the Cape Breton Highlands National Park
Page 5 – Review of the RFP for the Strategic Planning – Tuesday Feb 14 1pm
Page 5 – Dindoff Property – all documents sent to heirs
Page 6 – meeting re: Port Hood government wharf and Port Hood Island Wharf – form a committee

Presentation by Strait Regional School Board – Paul Landry, Lindsay MacDonald and Shelley MacGee-Wilson – Homestay coordinator – NS International Student Program
Paul Landry provided some background information Lindsay MacDonald matching students and 7 English language school boards

Land in Inverness-Easement agreement with land owners of Maple Hill Road be approved

Moved by John Dowling
Seconded by Alfred Poirier

Carried

Presentation by Keith MacDonald – Cape Breton Partnership

Presentation by Conrad Taves – Housing Consultant

Reviewed the draft documentation – forward to a Community Development Committee meeting for review by council on Feb 20 at 9am

Provide any recommendations/input to warden with two weeks and she will forward to Conrad

Committee Reports

Audit – Jan 9

Page 2 – Councillor Poirier asked if an agreement had been signed with Cabot Links and MacLeod's Beach Village-it is still in the process

Moved by Councillor Mustard

Seconded by Councillor Poirier

Carried

Audit – Jan 16 – Joe is still looking into gathering more information on the Margaree airport – the committee will not meet until this information is received

Moved by Councillor MacLennan

Seconded by John Dowling

Carried

Meeting with Geoff MacLellan, Minister of Transportation, slated for Tuesday March 7 at 11:00 in Whycocomagh fire hall

Policy – January 30

IT- Councillor Mustard to circulate information to council

Moved by Councillor Cranton

Seconded by Councillor Poirier

Carried

Housing/committee of the whole – January 31

Moved by Councillor Dowling

Seconded by Councillor MacLennan

Carried

Correspondence

Letter from Canada Post and the postal workers union re closure on Saturdays

Application of borrowing resolution – East Coast Credit Union

Moved by Councillor Cranton

Seconded by MacLennan

Carried

Application of banking services contract – East Coast Credit Union

Moved by Councillor Dowling

Seconded by Councillor Mustard

Carried

Petitions and Resolutions

Councillor Cranton

- Spoke of road issues in his district and how is getting a number of calls. He has used the call centre telephone number which is working very well.
- He is working with Damian, as well as Bell Aliant, and a number of other communication services in his district
- Business owners meeting in his district and Damian went well
- Next agenda for policy meeting – water issue in Margaree Forks for discussion

Councillor Mustard

- Early Years coalition launch is slated for January 24. There was a meeting in Wagmatcook last week looking at possibly another meeting- Jim will email councillors tomorrow the list of daycares in the areas interested.
- One NS Coalition and the province should be aware that the county is taking on this responsibility
- Joe, Garrett and Jim met last week regarding the water issue in Inverness there was discussion of possible new source and a treatment facility as well. Next round of federal funding regarding infrastructure
- In a meeting with Cabot Links, Warden Betty Ann MacQuarrie, Joe O'Connor and John Dowling made a request for a piece of land for a playground/recreation area. They are willing to transfer land to the county. A deed transfer of land for the development of a playground would be from Cabot Links to the county.

Moved by Councillor Mustard

Seconded by Councillor Dowling

Carried

- There will be a meeting set up with the residents of Inverside regarding the cost of the sewer and water
- Dept of Transportation is going to pave the Broad Cove Banks Road in Inverness

Councillor Poirier

- There has been erosion in Cheticamp because of the last storm. Cheticamp Island was cut off from Cheticamp residents for a number of hours. He is going to discuss this with the Minister of Transportation on March 7. There needs to be a plan in place if this keeps occurring.
- The provincial government wants the county to take over the water system in Cheticamp. This is ongoing. Joe suggested that the municipality take over the system if the province will provide \$250,000 because they didn't reserve for depreciation. Joe has sent a letter to the province.
- Daniel Boudreau asked Alfred if he can put a letter in the participaper regarding the marine park being protected land. This should be discussed. He will get some information from DFO who is responsible for this program and see what this project consists of.

Councillor MacLennan

- 5 Fire depts. in his district – Whycocomagh just paid \$300,000 for
- Whycocomagh fire dept is looking for a new truck at a cost of \$250,000 – is there federal/provincial funding available?
- Letter to Rodger Cuzner asking for federal funding for first responders. There is provincially. Copy letter to Allan MacMaster and Stephen MacNeil

Moved by John MacLennan

Seconded by John Dowling

Carried

- Discussion should be had on the increasing area rate for fire depts.

Councillor Dowling

- Student recognition for being picked for the leadership camp somehow applaud the student
- He attended the Port Hawkesbury airport meeting which was positive for the most part even though the county is no longer funding the airport. Joe reported that when funding began it was to fund the operating deficit. There have been no meetings the last several years. There is now \$450,000 in reserve. There will be a review of the agreement and also of the letter sent to the town regarding the airport not being funded.

Councillor MacQuarrie

- School review is on going. School Options Committee reported that there are presently two options being explored, either status quo or closure
- Council will send a letter to Strait Regional School Board recommending that the status quo be kept with the feeder system between the three schools and based on the work of the county status quo will give council a chance to review economic development and housing project.

Moved by Councillor MacQuarrie

Seconded by Councillor Cranton

Carried

- Monica Vandenhoogen and Emily Walker are participating in an international program in which they will be travelling to Mexico.

- There will be a meeting with a representative from Bell in Antigonish on Wednesday at 1 pm to discuss cell coverage.

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