

**MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2014
1:30 PM**

A meeting of Municipal Council of the County of Inverness was held on Monday, December 1, 2014, at 1:30 pm at the Fire Hall in Inverness with the following in attendance:

Warden Duart MacAulay
Deputy Warden Alfred Poirier
Councillor Gloria LeBlanc
Councillor Dwayne MacDonald
Councillor Jim Mustard
Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie

Staff: Joe O'Connor, CAO
Eveylena Gillis, Council Recorder
Harold MacIsaac, Solicitor

Media: Rankin MacDonald, Inverness Oran
Karo Comeau, Reporter

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Duart MacAulay called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Warden MacAulay asked that the presentations to the winners of the Energy Competition be added to the agenda after the Second Reading For Amendments to the "Service Fees For Payment Cards By-Law". Council agreed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by: Councillor Jim Mustard
Seconded by: Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie
Carried.

That the minutes of the Municipal Council meeting of November 3, 2014, be approved.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Page 2 Housing Summit – Councillor Mustard reported that the Housing Summit is scheduled for Thursday, December 11, 2014, at the Centre For the Arts in Inverness beginning at 9:30 am.

SECOND READING FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE INVERNESS MUNICIPAL PLANNING STRATEGY GENERALIZED FUTURE LAND USE MAP TO RE-DESIGNATE A PROPERTY (PID 50131606) FROM THE INDUSTRIAL GENERAL DESIGNATION TO THE COMMERCIAL MIXED-USE DESIGNATION

Warden MacAulay advised that a Public Hearing was held previous to Council and it was recommended that this amendment to forwarded to Council for Second Reading.

Moved by: Councillor Jim Mustard
Seconded by: Deputy Warden Alfred Poirier
Carried.

Councillor Gloria LeBlanc abstained from voting (she was not present at the Public Hearing)

That the First Reading for amendments to the Inverness Municipal Planning Strategy generalized future land use map to re-designate a property (PID 50131606) from the Industrial General Designation to the Commercial Mixed-Use Designation be approved.

SECOND READING FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE INVERNESS LAND USE BY-LAW MAP TO RE-ZONE A PROPERTY (PID 50131606) FROM THE INDUSTRIAL (I-2) ZONE TO THE COMMERCIAL MIXED-USE (C-3) ZONE

Moved by: Councillor Jim Mustard
Seconded by: Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie
Carried.

Councillor Gloria LeBlanc abstained from voting (she was not present at the Public Hearing)

That the Second Reading for an amendment to the Inverness Land Use By-Law map to Re-Zone a property (PID 50131606) from the Industrial (I-2) Zone to the Commercial Mixed-Use (C-3) Zone be approved.

SECOND READING FOR AMENDMENTS TO “SERVICE FEES FOR PAYMENT CARDS BY-LAW”

Moved by: Councillor Dwayne MacDonald
Seconded by: Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie
Carried.

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF INVERNESS

SERVICE FEES FOR PAYMENT CARDS BY-LAW #46

1. This By-law shall be known as the “Service Fees for Payment Cards By-Law.”
2. In this By-law:
 - a. “service fees” includes all fees levied against the user of the payment card when payments for Municipal services and activities are made using a payment card.
 - b. “payment card” refers to credit cards; specifically Visa and MasterCard
3. As authorized by section 172(1)(f) and 172(2)(e)(i) of the Municipal Government Act, Council may, by By-law, charge or approve an administrative fee for the use of a payment card.
4. Where a payment card is used to pay for Municipal taxes, a service fee of three percent (3%) per payment for any service where the payment card transaction is permitted by the Municipality.
5. Where a payment card is used to pay for Municipal water, the following service fees for payment card processing shall apply:
 - a. a service fee of \$5.95 per payment for amounts \$200.00 or less for any service where the payment card transaction is permitted by the Municipality; and
 - b. a service fee of \$5.95 per \$200.00 of the payment for amounts greater than \$200.00 where the payment card transaction is permitted by the Municipality.

Moved by: Councillor Dwayne MacDonald
Seconded by: Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie
Carried.

That the Amendment to the Service Fees For Payment Cards By-Law #46 be approved.

PRESENTATION OF ENERGY COMPETITION AWARDS

Chris van den Heuvel reviewed the background information on the energy competition and provided the reduction percentages for the communities and individual winners. The following prizes were presented – Community Winners – 1st Place - Mabou - \$5,000; 2nd Place – West Bay Road \$750.00; and 3rd Place – Glendale - \$400.00; Individual Winners – 1) David Greenwell, Mabou; 2) Wayne MacKenzie, West Bay Road; and 3) Paul Glover and Leanne MacInnis, Glendale, who receive up to \$500.00 towards their power bill (comparison of this year’s July bill to last year’s July bill).

Council adjourned for a five minute break.

Council re-convened at 1:55 pm.

PRESENTATION BY DR TERESA MACNEIL – BRAS D’OR LAKES BIOSPHERE RESERVE ASSOCIATION

Warden MacAulay welcomed Dr. Teresa MacNeil who updated Council on the UNESCO designation, the benefits to Cape Breton and the current projects they are working on. Presently they are working on preparing a curriculum for Grade 4 students to provide information on the ecology of the watershed on the Bras d’Or Lakes. A web based atlas as well as signage are also a few of the projects which the association is working on.

TAX WRITE-OFF

The following tax account was provided from the Finance Dept. for write-off – Account #08037604, in the amount of \$1243.42 in District #6 (loss of dwelling due to fire).

Moved by: Councillor Dwayne MacDonald
Seconded by: Councillor Gloria LeBlanc
Carried.

That the tax account as provided be approved for write-off.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICY COMMITTEE

Moved by: Councillor Jim Mustard
Seconded by: Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie
Carried.

Resolved that the minutes of the Policy Committee meeting of November 3, 2014, be approved and that the recommendations made to Council therein, and the motions passed therein are hereby adopted, approved and passed by Council.

CORRESPONDENCE

SEASIDE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS

Information was received from Seaside Communications with respect to upgrading the speed service for the internet in the County and requesting support for their application.

Moved by: Councillor Jim Mustard
Seconded by: Deputy Warden Alfred Poirier

Carried.

WHEREAS: Access to high speed internet service is as important to rural Canada today as rural electrification was in the 1940's and 1950's; and

WHEREAS: Seaside Wireless Communications Inc. was the contractor selected by the Province of Nova Scotia to provide internet access to unserved portions of Inverness County under the Broadband for Rural Nova Scotia program, and

WHEREAS: Many Inverness County residents and businesses are now seeking internet speeds greater than the 1.5 megabit per second download standard established under the Broadband for Rural Nova Scotia program, and

WHEREAS: The Government of Canada has established the connecting Canadians program to help provide Canadians with access to internet services at speeds of at least 5 Megabits per second download, and

WHEREAS: Seaside Wireless Communications Inc. intends to apply for funding from the Connecting Canadians program to increase internet speeds available to its customers in Inverness County,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Municipality of Inverness County supports Seaside's application to participate in the Connecting Canadians project.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Follow up correspondence was received from the Dept. of Transportation with respect to several requests in Harbourview, Port Hood.

EASTERN DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSION

Correspondence was received from the EDPC with respect to Summary Offence Tickets – Special Constable.

Moved by: Councillor Jim Mustard
Seconded by: Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie
Carried.

That Council accept the appointment of Sean Donovan as Special Constable able to issue Summary Offence Tickets for violations of the Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations for Inverness County.

TENDER – UPGRADES TO THE PORT HOOD WELL

Moved by: Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie
Seconded by: Councillor Dwayne MacDonald
Carried.

That the recommendation from the Director of Public Works to award the tender for the upgrades to the Port Hood Well #1 be awarded to Joneljim Construction Ltd for the amount of \$310,929. excluding applicable taxes be approved.

UNSIGHTLY PREMISES – EAST MARGAREE ROAD

Councillor Gloria LeBlanc advised that the building at 2283 East Margaree Road is presently being demolished.

MARGAREE AIRPORT

Moved by: Councillor Gloria LeBlanc
Seconded by: Councillor Dwayne MacDonald
Carried.

Whereas the Municipality is working on an integrated re-population strategy which includes tourism, business readiness and improved infrastructure and;

Whereas recent tourist travel has resulted in increased air travel and a reduction in traditional forms of transportation;

Therefore Be It Resolved that we move forward with the Margaree Airport Expansion Project contingent on support from our funding partners and proceed with the community consultations in January.

PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

Moved by: Councillor Gloria LeBlanc
Seconded by: Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie
Carried.

Whereas the Expansion Project encompasses all of Inverness County I move to see a series of community meetings be held – 1) Margaree; 2) Inverness South; and 3) Inverness North starting the second week in January to be held on Monday evenings consecutively.

Council adjourned for a five minute break.

Council re-convened at 2:55 pm

BOUNDARY REVIEW

Moved by: Deputy Warden Alfred Poirier
Seconded by: Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie
Carried.

That the Electoral Districts and number of Council members remain the same.

FIRST NATIONS – MUNICIPAL COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Warden MacAulay advised that the County has been selected to participate in the FCM's First Nations-Municipal Community Infrastructure Partnership Program with Waycobah First Nations. This program will provide support for partnership building and the development of joint service agreements.

Moved by: Councillor Jim Mustard
Seconded by: Councillor Dwayne MacDonald
Carried.

That the County participate in the FCM's First Nations-Municipal Community Infrastructure Partnership Program with Waycobah First Nations.

That Warden Duart MacAulay and CAO Joe O'Connor participate on this committee.

PETITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – ROUTE 19 - MABOU

Councillor MacQuarrie asked that the problem on Route 19 in the community of Mabou be re-assessed by the County and the Dept. of Transportation.

UPGRADES TO THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Moved by: Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie
Seconded by: Deputy Warden Alfred Poirier
Carried.

Whereas the Municipal Building especially the exterior desperately requires a facelift;

Whereas Municipal Council/Staff should have a pride of place for work, meeting venue and court use;

Therefore Be It Resolved that we dust off the plans that have already been done and schedule the most needed work for the spring of 2015, and forward this request to an Audit Committee meeting for further discussion.

JUDIQUE SENIORS UNITS

Councillor Dwayne MacDonald questioned the status of the request at the Seniors unit in Judique. No information has been received.

ROAD NAME CHANGE

Moved by: Councillor Dwayne MacDonald
Seconded by: Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie
Carried.

That the request received from the residents of MacEachern Road (Kingsville side) located in Queensville for road to be re-named “Blue Ridge Rd” be approved.

EAST MARGAREE ROAD – GUARD RAIL

For information purposes Councillor LeBlanc advised that the Dept. of Transportation has requested special funding to carry out repair work on the guard rail on the East Margaree Rd.

HERITAGE BY-LAW

Councillor LeBlanc provided notice of changes to the Heritage By-Law.

CANADA POST

Councillor Jim Mustard provided information on the closure of several rural post offices on Saturday’s. Councillor Mustard will get this petition signed before forwarding to the Minister of Transport and Rodger Cuzner, MP.

WATER QUALITY – INVERNESS

A meeting to discuss the water quality in Inverness will be held early in the New Year.

GARBAGE PICKUP

Councillor Mustard questioned why the garbage in the community garbage bins on Central Avenue is not being picked up. Councillor Mustard will bring this item up with the Inverness Development Association.

PHONE SERVICE –MEAT COVE/CAPSTICK

Deputy Warden Alfred Poirier advised that there have been numerous telephone landline outages north of the Capstick area including Meat Cove which lasted almost a full week. Part of the reason for the outages was the reconstruction of the Salmon River Bridge. Residents were upset and nervous that in the event that anyone in the community were to have an emergency they would not be able to contact emergency services. Garrett Beaton will bring this issue forward at the next EMO meeting.

EMERGENCY BUILDING – CHETICAMP

Deputy Warden Poirier advised that they are able to use the school in Cheticamp as an emergency centre.

CHETICAMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Deputy Warden Poirier advised that the Cheticamp Advisory Committee would like to meet with Council in the new year to discuss the amended terms of reference.

FIBRE OPTIC

Discussion took place with respect to the status of the fibre optic in the County. There was very little information available.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss a motion was made by Councillor LeBlanc, seconded by Councillor MacDonald that meeting adjourn.

CLERK

WARDEN