

**MUNICIPAL COUNCIL  
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2012  
1:30 PM**

A meeting of Municipal Council of the County of Inverness was held on Monday, January 9, 2012, at 1:30 pm at the Court House in Port Hood with the following in attendance:

Warden Duart MacAulay  
Deputy Warden Susan Mallette  
Councillor Dwayne MacDonald  
Councillor Daniel Boudreau  
Councillor Jim Mustard

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

Media: Rankin MacDonald, Inverness Oran  
Matt Draper, The Reporter

Absent: Councillor Gloria LeBlanc

**CALL TO ORDER**

Warden Duart MacAulay called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Moved by: Councillor Jim Mustard**  
**Seconded by: Deputy Warden Susan Mallette**  
**Carried.**

**That the minutes of the December 5, 2011, Municipal Council meeting be approved.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Page 5 - Notice of Motion - Discussed at an Audit Committee meeting on January 5, 2012,  
Jim read the following resolution:

**WHEREAS Inverness County believes in the wise development and use of our resources to build a sustainable economic base that contributes to local employment opportunities;**

**WHEREAS Inverness County has the responsibility, through the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, to engage communities and citizens in planning for the social, economic, environmental and cultural priorities for its region;**

**WHEREAS Inverness County has not been consulted by Industry or the Provincial Government from the beginning with regards to the ongoing plans for oil/gas exploration in te Lake Ainslie Block;**

**WHEREAS Drilling and hydraulic fracturing for shale gas/oil is a new extraction process in our region and still under review by the Province;**

**Be It Moved:**

**That drilling for shale oil/gas not be permitted within a safe and acceptable distance from any lake or flowing water source to be determined in consultation with representatives from the community and municipality;**

**That the Province will consult with Inverness Municipal Council in all present and future planning and review of oil/gas exploration in our region;**

**That the Province carry out an environmental impact study of the Lake Ainslie/Margaree Watershed and in the future all watersheds before any permit for drilling is issued;**

**That a committee be struck to research and develop an energy strategy for Inverness County that will help to identify investment opportunities for locally based energy solutions in heating, electricity and transportation, including improving energy conservation and efficiency.**

**Moved by: Councillor Jim Mustard  
Seconded by: Deputy Warden Susan Mallette  
Carried.**

**That the resolution as presented be approved.**

**Page 7 - Eastern Counties Regional Library, Donation of \$300.approved at Audit Committee meeting on January 5, 2012.**

**FIRST READING - WIND TURBINE BY-LAW**

**Moved by: Councillor Dwayne MacDonald  
Seconded by: Councillor Daniel Boudreau  
Carried.**

**That the First Reading of the Wind Turbine By-Law be approved.**

**DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

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

**That a Public Hearing be held on Monday February 6, 2012, at 1 p.m.**

**SECOND READING - BUILDING PERMIT FEES BY-LAW**

**Moved by: Deputy Warden Susan Mallette**  
**Seconded by: Councillor Jim Mustard**  
**Carried.**

**That the second reading of the Building Permit Fees By-Law be approved.**

**REPEAL OF TRAILERS BY-LAW #20**

Joe O'Connor advised that the Trailers By-Law #20 is not relevant any longer. Trailers are now under the jurisdiction of the Building By-Law.

**Moved by: Councillor Daniel Boudreau**  
**Seconded by: Councillor Dwayne MacDonald**  
**Carried.**

**That the Trailers By-Law #20 be repealed.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PLANNING & ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Moved by: Councillor Daniel Boudreau**  
**Seconded by: Councillor Jim Mustard**  
**Carried.**

**Resolved that the minutes of the Planning & Advisory Committee Meeting of January 5, 2012, be approved and that the recommendations made to Council therein, and the motions passed therein are hereby adopted, approved and passed**

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**Moved by: Deputy Warden Susan Mallette**  
**Seconded by: Councillor Jim Mustard**  
**Carried.**

**Resolved that the minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting of January 5, 2012, be approved and that the recommendations made to Council therein, and the motions passed therein are hereby adopted, approved and passed**

**STRAIT AREA TRANSIT RESOLUTION**

Councillor Dwayne MacDonald put forward the following resolution:

**WHEREAS Strait Area Transit provides an invaluable service to residents of Inverness County; and**

**WHEREAS Topic/Asset #36 (Transportation) of the Municipality of the County of Inverness' ICSP Economic Pillar lists continued support of SAT through financial contributions, and S-HRDA support as a goal; and**

**WHEREAS Strait Area Transit must be considered as an integral part of any successful long term strategic planning of the Municipality of the County of Inverness; and**

**WHEREAS The estimated number of residents of the Municipality of the County of Inverness served by the transit differs between figures provided by Municipal staff and the transit staff; and**

**WHEREAS The Municipality funded Strait Area Transit based on Municipal staff numbers; and**

**WHEREAS The shortfall leaves SAT more than \$7,000. short in their projected budget; and**

**WHEREAS If not rectified this will lead to cessation of SAT service in the Municipality of the County of Inverness;**

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

**THAT The Municipality of the County of Inverness provide additional funds to the Strait Area Transit, using the \$1.60 figure, multiplied by the number of served residents provided by the transit staff, minus the funds received from the Municipality by the SAT based on the Municipal staff figures; and**

**THAT Strait Area Transit be notified that continued support at this level is contingent upon near-future implementation of a Whycomomagh-Port Hawkesbury route; and**

**THAT Strait Area Transit be asked to appear before Council with quarterly progress reports on expansion plans within the Municipality.**

**Moved by: Councillor Jim Mustard  
Seconded by: Deputy Warden Susan Mallette  
Carried.**

**That the resolution from Councillor MacDonald with respect to the Strait Area Transit be tabled for an Audit Committee meeting.**

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **STRAIT REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD & DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Followup correspondence was received from the SRSB and the Dept. Of Education with respect to a review of school bussing guidelines.

## **PETITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS**

### **ROAD NAME CHANGE**

**Moved by: Councillor Daniel Boudreau  
Seconded by: Councillor Dwayne MacDonald  
Carried.**

**That the petition received from the residents of a section of West Big Intervale Road (approx. 3.25 km south of Kingross Cross Rd. to end) for this section to be named "Sugarloaf Valley Road" be forwarded to the Eastern District Planning Commission and Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal.**

### **RESOLUTION RE: PROVINCIAL PROPERTY TAX REBATE FOR SENIORS**

Councillor Daniel Boudreau put forward the following resolution:

**WHEREAS The provincial property tax rebate for seniors provided by the province of Nova Scotia is an excellent program for seniors residing in their own home.**

**WHEREAS The province provides a rebate on municipal property taxes of 50%, up to a maximum of \$600. to seniors in receipt of the Guaranteed Income Supplement.**

**WHEREAS The majority of the municipalities, although in a less generous**

**manner are also assisting the low income seniors and other low income persons residing in their own homes.**

**WHEREAS The Municipality of the County of Inverness for the year 2012, has increased its municipal tax rebate from \$50. to \$100. to seniors and others whose household earnings are less than \$14,500.**

**WHEREAS There exists a flaw with the present format that is used in the calculation of the provincial tax rebate refund and this flaw is to the detriment of our seniors. For example, the way the provincial tax rebate is calculated is that on a \$500. tax bill, the Province will deduct the \$100. municipal tax credit from the \$500. and calculate 50% on the \$400. balance. Half of \$400. is \$200. The senior gets \$100. from the Municipality and another \$200. from the Province for a total of \$300. in property tax rebate.**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That on a \$500. tax bill, the municipal tax credit of \$100, or whatever the amount, not be taken into account by the Province. On a \$500. tax bill, the Province would calculate 50% of \$500. which would amount to \$250. Add this to the \$100. rebate from the Municipality and our senior would receive a total credit of \$350. on his tax bill; an additional \$50.**

**AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED As already stated, that the Province totally neglect the municipal deduction in its calculation of its property tax rebate to seniors; thereby giving the full benefit of the municipal tax rebate to the seniors, rather than the municipality subsidizing the Province by the amount of \$50. and the seniors receiving \$50. less on their property tax rebate.**

**Moved by: Councillor Daniel Boudreau  
Seconded by: Councillor Dwayne MacDonald  
Carried.**

**That this resolution be forwarded to Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations, the UNSM and Allan MacMaster, MLA and also followup with our Municipal Advisor.**

#### **FIRE HYDRANTS - PORT HASTINGS**

Councillor Dwayne MacDonald advised that the Fire Chief in Port Hastings contacted him with respect to the fire hydrants in Port Hastings. Joe O'Connor advised that we usually put snow flags on the hydrants that may cause a problem. Garret Beaton agreed to have these fire hydrants marked.

#### **UNSIGHTLY PREMISES - WOODY CHEDIAC**

**Moved by: Councillor Dwayne MacDonald**  
**Seconded by: Deputy Warden Susan Mallette**  
**Carried.**

**That a followup report be carried out on the Woody Chediac mini home in Long Point.**

**ROAD NAME CHANGE**

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

**That the petition received from the residents of "Unnamed Road (existing addresses 482 & 484 Long Stretch Road" for road to be named "MacGregor Lane" be forwarded to the Eastern District Planning Commission and Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal.**

**PORT HASTINGS AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE - NEW MEMBERS**

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

**That Cathy Burns, Mark MacDonald and Donna Carrigan be approved as new members on the Port Hastings Area Advisory Committee and a letter of appreciation be forwarded to Ian MacKinnon for his years of service on this committee.**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE - MUNICIPAL AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Councillor Jim Mustard provided a copy of Terms of Reference for Municipal Area Advisory Committee Members.

**Moved by: Councillor Jim Mustard**  
**Seconded by: Deputy Warden Susan Mallette**  
**Carried.**

**That this information be tabled for discussion at a Policy Meeting.**

**MUNICIPAL PROPERTY - HILLCREST STREET - INVERNESS**

Councillor Jim Mustard advised that the Shean Co-op are interested in 1.7 acre of Municipal

owned property at the top of Hillcrest St. and he questioned whether a geo technical survey could be carried out. Garret Beaton advised that consultants would have to be hired and it was agreed that Mr. Beaton get a cost estimate.

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Councillor Daniel Boudreau advised that representatives from Meat Cove and Pleasant Bay may be interested in making a presentation to Council. He will confirm before next meeting.

**Council adjourned for a five minute break.**

**Warden MacAulay called meeting back to order at 2:40 p.m.**

**A motion was made by Councillor Mustard, seconded by Councillor MacDonald that meeting adjourn to "In Camera".**

**A motion was made by Councillor Boudreau, seconded by Deputy Warden Mallette that meeting adjourn to "Open Council".**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF "IN CAMERA"**

**TAX SALE PROPERTIES**

**ROBIN JONES PROPERTIES**

Joe O'Connor recommended that the Robin Jones store be demolished and the other property be advertised for sale.

**DONALD BISHOP PROPERTY**

Joe O'Connor recommended that the Donald Bishop garage be demolished.

**Moved by: Councillor Daniel Boudreau**  
**Seconded by: Councillor Dwayne MacDonald**  
**Carried.**

**That the recommendations from Mr. O'Connor with respect to the Robin Jones properties and the Donald Bishop property be accepted.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**With no further business to discuss meeting adjourned on motion of Councillor Mustard, seconded by Councillor MacDonald.**

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**WARDEN**

**CLERK**