

**MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 6, 2015
1:30 PM**

A meeting of Municipal Council of the County of Inverness was held on Monday, July 6, 2015, at 1:30 pm at the Court House in Port Hood with the following in attendance:

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

Absent: Councillor Gloria LeBlanc

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

Media: Bill Dunphy, Inverness Oran
 Emily Dalrymple, Reporter

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Duart MacAulay called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

PRESENTATION BY DR. MONIKA DUTT

Dr. Dutt, on behalf of Canadian Doctors for Medicare, provided information with respect to a National Pharmacare Program. Dr. Dutt explained that a national Pharmacare Program would reduce expenses for municipal government and businesses and make it more affordable for citizens to take medication and provided the following resolution for consideration:

WHEREAS the Municipality of the County of Inverness has recognized and has demonstrated over the past years, its commitment to the importance of healthy citizens as the foundation of a healthy, engaged and economically vibrant community; and

WHEREAS over 3 million Canadians, including many in our local communities, don't take medicines prescribed by their doctors because they can't afford them; and ,

WHEREAS Canada is currently the ONLY country with a national medicare program that does not have a national pharmacare program; and,

WHEREAS the risk of having no insurance for medicines is high among lower income Canadians which includes the service industry, precarious working and seasonal workers, like many in Inverness County; and,

WHEREAS studies show that adding a national pharmacare program to our national health care system would lower costs to businesses by over \$8 billion per year, providing Canadian companies competitive advantages in international trade; and

WHEREAS recent research confirms that these gains can be achieved with little or no increase in public investment;

WHEREAS municipal government expenses for employee benefits would be significantly reduced by a national pharmacare program; and

WHEREAS a national prescription drug formula would support better quality prescribing, including reducing dangerous and inappropriate prescribing to Canadian seniors;

WHEREAS a National Pharmacare plan is sound policy, both economically and socially;

Inverness County expresses its support for the creation of a National Pharmacare program as an extension of Canadian Medicare, since health and economic studies now show that such a policy would improve health in municipalities, give local businesses a competitive advantage in the global marketplace and lower costs for municipal government on taxpayers; and, Inverness County calls on the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities to urge the Province of Nova Scotia to work with other Provinces and Federal Government to develop and implement a National Pharmacare program; and,

That Inverness County and the Unions of Nova Scotia Municipalities also urge the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to adopt a similar resolution respecting the Federal Government; and,

That Inverness County convey the decision of Council on this resolution to the local MP, the Minister of Health for Nova Scotia, the Premier of Nova Scotia, the Federal Minister of Health and the Prime Minister.

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

That Council support the resolution as presented by Dr. Dutt.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

That the minutes of the June 1, 2015, Municipal Council meeting be approved.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Page 2 – Port Hood Dev – Removal of old Sewer Treatment Plant Building – On question from Councillor MacQuarrie, Joe O’Connor advised that the building should be ready to be demolished soon.

Page 5 – Meeting with First Nations – The meeting has not been set up and Councillor Mustard asked that this take place early in September.

Page 2 – Caucus Meeting in Inverness County and Meeting with Minister Diab – Warden MacAulay will followup.

PRESENTATION BY KARISSA CHISHOLM – STRAIT AREA GROUND SEARCH & RESCUE

Ms. Chisholm provided information on the Strait Area Ground Search & Rescue which is a volunteer based organization serving eight areas throughout the Province. The organization currently uses the Port Hastings Fire Hall for meetings and some training. They are looking to purchase and renovate a building in the Monastery area and are requesting funding of \$10,500. from each municipality/town as well as a \$3,000 per year tax levy. Warden MacAulay advised that these requests would be considered at an Audit Committee meeting.

SECOND READING FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE “HERITAGE PROPERTY BY-LAW #33”

Moved by: Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie

Seconded by: Deputy Warden Alfred Poirier

Carried.

Note: Councillor MacDonald abstained from voting.

That the Second Reading for Proposed Amendments to the “Heritage Property By-Law #33” be approved.

SECOND READING FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE INVERNESS COUNTY LAND USE BY-LAW – WIND TURBINE DEVELOPMENT TO CHANGE THE DEFINITION OF A DOMESTIC TURBINE

Warden MacAulay advised that a meeting was held previous to Council to review this amendment and the recommendation from this meeting was to postpone the second reading.

FIRST READING FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PORT HASINGS LAND USE BY-LAW – D & R FOX DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED

Moved by: Councillor Dwayne MacDonald

**Seconded by: Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie
Carried.**

That the First Reading for proposed amendments to the Port Hastings Land Use By-Law – D & R Fox Developments Limited be approved as follows:

- 1) Define a grouped dwelling as “a type of multiple-unit dwelling consisting of more than four (4) dwelling units that are contained within two (2) or more buildings located on the same lot;”**
- 2) Define a multiple-unit dwelling as “a dwelling that contains more than four (4) dwelling units,” and;**
- 3) Permit grouped dwellings in the Mixed Use (C-1) Zone subject to a minimum separation distance between buildings and the same conditions as multiple-unit dwellings.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

Resolved that the minutes of the Community Development Committee meeting of June 29, 2015, be approved and that the recommendations made to Council therein, and the motions passed therein are hereby adopted, approved and passed by Council.

POLICY COMMITTEE

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

Resolved that the minutes of the Policy Committee meeting of June 29, 2015, be approved and that the recommendations made to Council therein, and the motions passed therein are hereby adopted, approved and passed by Council.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

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

Resolved that the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting of June 29, 2015, be approved and that the recommendations made to Council therein, and the motions passed therein are hereby adopted, approved and passed by Council.

CORRESPONDENCE

NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Correspondence was received from the Dept. of Justice advising that the final day for Provincial Court in Port Hood will be October 20, 2015.

PETITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

DISTRICT #5 – COUNCILLOR BETTY ANN MACQUARRIE

CHESTICO MUSEUM PROPOSAL- The Chestico Museum Society is proposing to construct a new building across from the Day Park in Port Hood. They will be looking for some support from the County in the future.

SIDEWALK STREET LIGHTS - Councillor MacQuarrie questioned the status of the sidewalk street lights. Some work has been carried out in Inverness and Cheticamp and work will continue in Mabou and Port Hood.

SIDEWALKS – PORT HOOD – Request - That the gravel be cleaned off the sidewalks in Port Hood.

MANHOLE COVERS – MABOU – Request - That the manholes on the main street in Mabou be repaired.

L'ARCHE ROAD – MABOU – Request - That the County carry out some work on the road leading to the L'Arche building in Mabou. The Strait Regional School Board has repaired a portion of the road.

DISTRICT #6 – COUNCILLOR DWAYNE MACDONALD

ACOA – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – Request - That a letter be forwarded to ACOA with respect to the criteria for funding for Community Development projects.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

That correspondence be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation with respect to the time frame in receiving a response when contacting the call centre.

That the Dept. of Transportation be contacted requesting a warning sign at the top of Kings Road in Port Hastings and the Millville sign be re-installed.

SIGNS – PORT HASTINGS - That the illegal signs be removed in Port Hastings.

DISTRICT #3 – COUNCILLOR JIM MUSTARD

NEIGHBOURHOOD SPRUCE UP PROGRAM

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

That Housing Nova Scotia be contacted advising that the County is interested in applying to the Neighbourhood Spruce Up Program for housing improvements on Central Avenue in Inverness.

HOUSING RESOLUTION – CMHC – Councillor Mustard provided the following resolution for consideration:

WHEREAS: In our County health and prosperity are 2 sides of the same coin;

WHEREAS: Vibrant, healthy and prosperous communities are a combination of many factors like access to health care, early childhood development, education, arts, culture, recreation, employment, transportation, local food, communication and most critically being able to access affordable high quality housing;

WHEREAS: Choices around high quality affordable housing speak to the basic health needs of individuals it is also the foundation for a new economy for our region;

WHEREAS: With Municipal Council's re-population framework we have heard from agencies and communities across the county that there are both challenges and opportunities to improve and develop appropriate housing for citizens;

WHEREAS: At a December, 2014, Inverness County Housing Summit hosted by the Municipality numerous organizations, individuals, agencies and businesses identified urgent housing needs in communities across the county and observed that these needs-and the obstacles they present to attraction and retention of young families, care for the ill and elderly, support of developing businesses, and other county objectives-will only increase unless there is a strategic,

County-wide housing plan in place and focused leadership to develop, oversee and execute that plan;

WHEREAS: Achieving the wider goals of this county-such as repopulation, business readiness and increased tourism-requires a community-minded approach to capacity building, which has a broader objective that extends beyond any individual building project- so we are not just building houses, but building communities;

WHEREAS: Without undertaking a demand around our needs and developing a strategic plan to move forward, Inverness County will not realize its potential to capture this time of demographic challenges and opportunity with an aging population and need to retain and attract young families;

WHEREAS: The Canadian Housing and Mortgage Corporation, Housing Nova Scotia and the Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia are all supportive of a Municipally led approach to an integrated housing strategy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Municipality of the County of Inverness strike a committee of elected officials to approach the other partners in pursuing the resources needed to undertake and carry out a housing strategy for the whole county.

Councillor's Jim Mustard, Dwayne MacDonald, and Betty Ann MacQuarrie agreed to be part of this committee.

COMMUNITY RESEARCH & ADVISORY COMMITTEE - Councillor Mustard will provide a Terms of Reference for the Community Research & Advisory Committee for review by Mr. O'Connor.

ENGAGE CONFERENCE RESULTS - The Engage Conference results were provided for review.

DISTRICT #1 – DEPUTY WARDEN ALFRED POIRIER

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - Some road work has been carried out in District #1.

SIDEWALK STREET LIGHTS - The sidewalk street lights in Cheticamp have been repaired.

TRANSFER OF ROBINS LAND - Deputy Warden Poirier questioned the status of the transfer of the Robin's Land in Cheticamp to Le Conseil Economique de Cheticamp. Mr. O'Connor questioned whether there should be some restrictions with respect to what this property can be used for. Deputy Warden Poirier will talk to the President.

J ROADS – CHETICAMP - Joe O'Connor provided a copy of the J Roads in Cheticamp.

WATER RATES CHETICAMP - Deputy Warden Poirier questioned whether a rate has been set for when the County takes over the water utility in Cheticamp. Not as yet.

DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing for the application from D & R Fox Developments Ltd will be held on Thursday, July 23 at 6:30 pm at the Strait Regional School Board Offices in Port Hastings with Municipal Council to follow at 7:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

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

CLERK

WARDEN