

**MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2013
10:00 AM**

The Municipal Council Annual Meeting of the County of Inverness was held on Monday, June 10, 2013, at 10:00 am at the Court House in Port Hood with the following in attendance:

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

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

Media: Rankin MacDonald, Inverness Oran
Adam Cooke, Reporter

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Duart MacAulay called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

MOMENTS SILENCE FOR DECEASED COUNCILLORS

Warden MacAulay asked for a moments silence for deceased Councillors.

CHANGE TO AGENDA

Warden MacAulay asked for a change to the agenda to allow for the CAO Report and the Approval of the Financial Statements to follow the Warden's Report.

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

Council agreed to the change to the agenda as requested by Warden MacAulay.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by: Deputy Warden Dwayne MacDonald
Seconded by: Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie

Carried.

That the minutes of the May 6, 2013, Municipal Council meeting be approved.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

UNSM SPRING WORKSHOP

Councillor MacQuarrie reported that she discussed the possibility of re-locating UNSM seminars to various locations in the Province and they are willing to move around the province.

Page 4 – Unsightly Premises – Ronald Tousignant – Petit Etang – Joe O’Connor reported that an appeal was received with respect to this property and Mr. O’Connor will respond.

Page 6 – ICSP Workshop – It was agreed to wait until an ICSP Coordinator is hired before arranging a workshop.

Page 1 – Mabou Development Association – Councillor MacQuarrie advised that a meeting was held previous to Council with the Mabou Dev. Assoc. to review the agreement with the Mabou Marina and the County.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AUDIT COMMITTEE

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

Resolved that the minutes of the Audit Committee meetings of May 23 and June 4, 2013, be approved and that the recommendations made to Council therein, and the motions passed therein are hereby adopted, approved and passed by Council.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Moved by: Deputy Warden Dwayne MacDonald
Seconded by: Councillor Alfred Poirier
Carried.

Resolved that the minutes of the Community Development Committee meeting of April 22, 2013, be approved and that the recommendations made to Council therein, and the motions passed therein are hereby adopted, approved and passed by Council.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

It was agreed that a CDC meeting be held on Friday, June 21st at 10 am to address current applications.

PETITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS**PRIVATE ROAD GARBAGE POLICY**

Deputy Warden MacDonald presented the following policy:

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The policy of the Municipality of the County of Inverness be such, that collection of garbage from residents of private roads shall take place where the private road meets the public road, unless other arrangements are made by the municipality due to safety, or environmental concerns. Garbage placed in areas not considered the pickup area shall be considered illegal dumping.

WARDEN'S REPORT

Warden MacAulay advised that the past year was a challenging but successful year with a Municipal Election held in October of 2012. New Councillor in District #1 is Alfred Poirier and Betty Ann MacQuarrie is new Councillor for District #5 with all other Councillors remaining in their seats. Considerable time was spent over the past year on the Strait Area Transit, the Fracturing By-Law as well as the termination of the Strait Highlands RDA and the formation of a Regional Enterprise Network. The Harbourview Sewer/Water Project has been completed; the Mabou Façade Project has been completed and the Cheticamp Façade Project is being worked on as well as the Inverness Façade.

DISTRICT #3 REVIEW

Councillor Mustard reported on some of the projects worked on over the past year in his district such as - 1) Review of the MPS for Inverness; 2) Inverness Conceptual Plan; 3) Inverness Main St. Façade; 4) Community Foundation Seminars; 5) An additional golf course and several new eating facilities.

DISTRICT #5 REVIEW

Councillor MacQuarrie reviewed some of the projects worked on over the past year in her district such as – 1) The purchase of new fire trucks for Mabou and Port Hood Vol. Fire Depts; 2) Port Hood Façade Project; 3) Mabou Playground Project; 4) a building on Port Hood Island to

house a fire truck; 5) Resource Library in Port Hood and possibly one in Mabou; 6) Ceilidh Trail; 7) Fibre Optic requests.

PRESENTATION BY JOHN BAIN – RCBDDPC

John Bain presented and reviewed the 2013 Operating Budget for the RCBDDPC. Mr. Bain advised that housing starts so far this year have increased over the previous year and there was an increase in building permits last year over the previous year. The surplus for the year stands at \$24,739.

A question period followed.

DISTRICT #2 REVIEW

Councillor LeBlanc highlighted some of the projects worked on over the past year in her district such as – 1) Margaree Airport expansion; 2) Day Care expansion in St. Joseph du Moine; 3) Margaree Library and the Visitor Information Centre; 4) The Margaree & Lemoine Development Associations; 5) Lack of cell coverage in certain areas of her district; 6) The connection of the Ceilidh Trail and the Cabot Trail.

DISTRICT #1 REVIEW

Councillor Poirier reviewed various projects worked on over the past year in his district such as – 1) Meat Cove & Pleasant Bay Development Associations; 2) Phase II of the Façade Project for Cheticamp; 3) Cheticamp Fisheries and Cape Bald Packers Expansion; 4) Raymond Deveau Marina & Boat Storage Project; 5) Problem with population decline.

DISTRICT #6 REVIEW

Deputy Warden MacDonald reported on the various projects worked on over the past year in his district such as – 1) Development Associations in his district; 2) Creation of a Food Cooperative; 3) Farmers Market; 4) Cutbacks at the pulp mill and also cutbacks with the forestry workers; 5) Problem with out migration of citizens.

CAO REPORT

Joe O'Connor reviewed the reports from the Departments of Finance, Public Works, Recreation and the Physical Activity Coordinator. Mr. O'Connor reviewed and updated Council on the various projects and future projects such as – 1) Climate Change Action Plan – Inverness County, Victoria County and Town of Port Hawkesbury; 2) Inter Municipal Information Technology Agreement; 3) Margaree Airport Expansion; 4) Provincial Water Strategy Assessments; 5) Inverary Manor Capital Committee; 6) Patient Flow Through Task Force; 7) Municipal Actions Committee – New Page.

APPROVAL OF OPERATING BUDGET – 2013-2014

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 72 of the Municipal Government Act, of the Province of Nova Scotia, the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Inverness estimated that sums amounting to \$14,333,226 are required for the lawful purpose of the said municipality for the year ending March 31, 2014, after crediting the probable revenue from all sources other than the rates of the said year and making due allowances for the abatement and losses which may occur in the collection of taxes for the said year which may not be collected or collectible.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council hereby authorize the levying and collection of a commercial property rate of \$1.85 and a residential and resource rate of \$1.02 per one hundred dollars of the assessed value of property and on the assessment roll which the said Council deems sufficient to raise the sum required to defray the expenditures of the said Municipality of the said year.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the area rates be established as follows in the following areas:

District No. 1: Cheticamp/Pleasant Bay

\$0.31 for sewer maintenance

\$0.08 on residential property served by the Cheticamp Fire Department

\$0.04 on commercial property served by the Cheticamp Fire Department

\$125.00 per residential dwelling unit served by the Pleasant Bay Fire Department

\$60.00 per residential dwelling unit served by the Meat Cove Fire Department

District No. 2: The Margarees / St. Joseph

\$0.08 on residential property served by the LeMoine Fire Department

\$0.05 on commercial property served by the LeMoine Fire Department

\$0.10 on residential and commercial property served by the N.E. Margaree Fire Department

\$0.10 on residential property served by the Margaree Fire Department

\$0.10 on commercial property served by the Margaree Fire Department

District No. 3: Inverness / Glenville / Dunvegan

\$0.30 for sewer maintenance

\$0.08 on commercial and residential property served by the Inverness Fire Department

\$0.05 on commercial property served by the Margaree Fire Department

District No. 4: Whycomomagh / Orangedale / Ainslie

\$0.30 for sewer maintenance

\$0.10 on commercial and residential property served by the Whycomomagh Fire Department

\$0.10 on commercial and residential property served by the Ainslie / Upper Margaree Fire Department

\$0.10 on commercial and residential property served by the Valley Mills Fire Department

\$0.05 on commercial and residential property served by the Blues Mills Fire Department

District No. 5: Port Hood / Mabou

\$0.30 for sewer maintenance

\$100.00 flat rate for dwelling units served by the Mabou Fire Department, with a maximum rate of \$200 for a property owner with two or more properties

\$0.10 on residential property served by the Port Hood Fire Department

\$0.06 on residential property served by the Port Hood Fire Department

\$0.10 for sidewalks on properties in the area serviced by the Port Hood Fire Department

Taxpayers eligible for the low-income property tax rebate will be exempt from the sidewalk area rate.

District No. 6: Port Hastings / Judique / West Bay

\$0.30 for sewer maintenance for the area served by the Judique and Port Hastings Sewer systems

\$0.10 on residential and commercial property served by the Judique Fire Department

\$0.10 on residential and commercial property served by the West Bay Road Fire Department

\$0.10 on residential and commercial property served by the Port Hastings Fire Department

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the said Council hereby require payment of the said rates to be made to the Tax Collector or Treasurer of the said Municipality on September 1st, 2013.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the said Council hereby impose an additional percentage of twelve percent per annum on all rates and taxes remaining unpaid after September 1st, 2013.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council fixes April 1, 2014 as the day after which the tax collector may proceed to issue warrants for the collection on all rates and taxes then unpaid.

Moved by: Deputy Warden Dwayne MacDonald

Seconded by: Councillor Jim Mustard

Carried.

That the Operating Budget for the year ending March 31, 2014, be approved.

Adjournment to Lunch

Warden MacAulay called meeting back to order at 1:05 pm.

PRESENTATION BY PROPERTY VALUATION SERVICES

Warden MacAulay welcomed Trudy LeBlanc, Diane Beaton and Lloyd MacLeod from PVSC. Mr. MacLeod reviewed the PVSC budget, governance and profile for the County. The total 2013 assessment – residential - \$1,071,757,000 and commercial - \$209,315,600 and our contribution for 2013/14 is \$391,586. The CAP requirements were reviewed.

A question period followed.

HALIFAX BIOMEDICAL INC.

Warden MacAulay welcomed Chad Munroe, CEO. Mr. Munroe updated Council on Halifax Biomedical who have expanded to the United States in spinal care and spinal assessment. They have hired more staff and housing is a problem in the Mabou area. Mr. Munroe questioned the availability of water/sewer in several areas of Mabou. Mr. Munroe also emphasized the need and the importance of fibre optic.

A question and answer period followed.

CORRESPONDENCE

CHILD CARE AWARENESS MONTH

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

That the month of June be declared “Child Care Awareness Month”.

CABOT TRAIL FAÇADE PROGRAM AGREEMENT

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

That the agreement with ECBC for the County to take over the Cabot Trail Façade Program be approved for signature.

BANKING SERVICES CONTRACT – EAST COAST CREDIT UNION

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

That the Banking Services Contract with the East Coast Credit Union be approved.

TEMPORARY BORROWING RESOLUTION – EAST COAST CREDIT UNION

Moved by: Deputy Warden Dwayne MacDonald
Seconded by: Councillor Jim Mustard

Carried.

That the Temporary Borrowing Resolution for 1.5 million with the East Coast Credit Union be approved.

CABOT TRAIL WORKING ASSOCIATION

Councillor Poirier pointed out that the Cabot Trail Working Association is no longer active and asked that the County hold the money in trust for this group. Council agreed.

PORT HAWKESBURY VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

Warden MacAulay provided information on the request from the Port Hawkesbury Veterans Memorial Park Society for a financial donation to the Veterans Memorial Park. It was agreed to refer this request to an Audit Committee meeting.

CHETICAMP ECONOMIC COUNCIL

Information was received from the Cheticamp Economic Council of a breakdown of the projects they will be undertaking for the upcoming year. It was agreed that this information be referred to a CDC meeting.

PETITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS POLICY

Deputy Warden MacDonald provided the Community Development Grants Policy for approval. Several changes were discussed.

Moved by: Deputy Warden Dwayne MacDonald

Seconded by: Councillor Gloria LeBlanc

Carried.

That the Community Development Grants Policy be accepted with approved amendments.

MUNICIPALTY OF THE COUNTY OF INVERNESS DISTRICT/REGIONAL CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS POLICY

Grant Authority:

The Municipality of the County of Inverness will do everything reasonable within the bounds of its powers pursuant to the Municipal Government Act (MGA) Section 65, and its resources, to bring to a realization the goals set out in the Municipality's Community Based Municipal Development Plan (CBMDP) and Integrated Community Sustainability Plan.

Grant Program:

The Municipality of the County of Inverness offers a District/Regional Capital Development Grant to assist communities and not-for-profit groups with the development of projects or initiatives that help foster integrated community growth, collaboration and designed to spur the development of innovative ideas and projects that will enhance the health and prosperity of Inverness County.

This program governs capital grants for District 1 through 6 within the Municipality of the County of Inverness to be applied through Inverness County Development Associations.

This program does not govern the following, which are separately administered:

1. Grants and contributions pursuant to inter-municipal, provincials or other agreements (Policing and Education);
2. Municipality of the County of Inverness Fire and Emergency Services operating & capital grants; Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations (full and partial tax exemption bylaws);
3. Residential Property Tax Rebates (low-income homeowners);
4. Student Grants & Bursaries;
5. Grants to organizations.

Policy:

1. Each district of the Municipality will have an annual budget for Capital Development Grants. The maximum annual amount to be expended shall be based on Council's annual operating budget.
2. An annual budget for projects deemed to fit in a regional category could also be budgeted. The maximum annual amount shall be based on Council's annual budget.
3. District funds must be expended in the district for which they are allocated; or on a project that can be demonstrated to provide a direct benefit to the district.

4. Annual allocations, if unused in a fiscal year, will be reserved for use by that district for the following year. District funds reserved for more than 2 years will be transferred to the regional fund budget.
5. All grant applications shall be submitted on the application form provided by the municipality.
6. The **deadline for grant applications** is **January 31st** or the last working day of the month of January. If districts do not have the application submitted by the deadline, their district allocation could go to a regional project.
7. Municipal Council and staff will review each request individually. Organizations receiving funding assistance should be incorporated as non-profit under the Joint Stock Companies Societies Act.
8. Preference will be given to organizations that demonstrate community support, efficient use of resources, sound business practices and develop volunteer knowledge, skills and self-reliance.
9. Up to 20% of District/Regional Capital Development Grants will be available for discretionary funding in each district upon approval by Council.
10. Annual report made available to Council on use of District/Regional Capital Development Grants.

Procedure:

1. The applicant group must provide the names and addresses of their officers and principal contacts.
2. The group must provide a written proposal that will provide information on the overall benefit to the community, and also illustrate the amount of community involvement.
3. Applications must include the following:
 - i. a statement of objectives for the proposal or project;
 - ii. a work plan should be included indicating starting and completion dates;
 - iii. a financial breakdown for the project, including materials, labour and other expenses. The persons responsible for monitoring the project should be identified.
 - iv. identify all sources of revenue.
4. A financial statement for the group's last fiscal year must be included with the application.

5. Organizations such a church groups, who are not registered with joint stock, must provide their charitable number.
6. Funding will not exceed 50% of the cost of a project or proposal. The applicant must provide information on the source of funds for the remainder of the project.
7. Municipal funds will be distributed to projects upon the applicant providing a progress claim, including a description and financial statement showing the revenues and expenditures for the project to-date.
8. Applicants must agree to present any reports or information as requested by Council. Failure to disclose the financial information for the completed project, within the two year period following approval, will result in forfeiture of the grant approved by Council.
9. Applicants must agree to publicly acknowledge the municipal assistance, when commenting publicly on the funding of their project.

General Conditions:

- Applicants must have the deed/lease to the property/facility or acceptable alternative.
- Applicants may be requested to make a verbal presentation to Community Development Committee to explain further and outline the specifics of their projects.
- Grant cannot be used for the salary/wages of staff positions or board honoraria.
- Grant applicants should be able to demonstrate active fundraising efforts and/or additional funding sources to support the continuation of a program, project or service.
- Grants may be awarded with certain terms and conditions. The letter of award will state if any particular restrictions apply to the grant.
- Awards may be issued in full or can be paid in installments. The letter of award will state if a holdback applies to the grant.
- In rare circumstances, an applicant's eligibility may be suspended for a specified time period for misappropriation of funds, failure to report, or misrepresentation.

- At the end of a project or by the end of the Municipality's fiscal year, whichever comes first, grant recipients must submit a report and/or financial statement to the municipality.
- Each application determined to be ineligible for funding will be documented and included in the staff report to Community Development Committee (CDC). The applicant will be notified, in writing, if the application is not eligible.

INVERNESS COUNTY HOME SUPPORT PROGRAM

Councillor LeBlanc explained that the Inverness County Home Support is requesting funding from the province to assist with the installation of a GPS system for each worker. Councillor LeBlanc asked that a letter be forwarded to the Dept. of Health in support of this initiative.

RANGE LIGHTS – MARGAREE HARBOUR

Councillor LeBlanc pointed out that a local group in Margaree has applied to the Province for funding for the takeover and maintenance of the range lights. They are also asking for assistance from the county. Councillor LeBlanc will take this request to the next audit committee meeting.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – CAP LEMOINE

Councillor LeBlanc asked that a letter be forwarded to Steve MacDonald asking that repair work be carried out on the pot holes in Cap LeMoine. Discussion followed and it was agreed that the Dept. of Transportation Area Managers be invited to attend a Council meeting to discuss issues of concern.

LOAN GUARANTEE AMENDMENT – MABOU VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

That the loan guarantee previously approved at the February 11, 2013, Council meeting for the Mabou & District Volunteer Fire Department be amended to reflect the amount of \$139,792.

LOBSTER FISHING INDUSTRY

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

That a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Fisheries in support of the Lobster Fishing Industry and encouraging the government to explore other markets.

NEXTGEN LEADERSHIP SOCIETY

A financial request was received from the NextGen Leadership Society to assist with their initiative to attract young talent to work and live on Cape Breton Island. It was agreed that this request be referred to an Audit meeting.

PARK STREET EXTENSION

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

That the County provide funding for the cost of enlisting an engineer to re-design an extension to Park St. and have these costs paid by homeowners when completed.

SHEAN HOUSING CO-OP

Moved by: Councillor Jim Mustard
Seconded by: Councillor Gloria LeBlanc
Carried.

That a letter be provided to the Department of Community Services in support of the initiative of the Shean Housing Co-op with land to be held in trust by the County.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss a motion was made by Councillor LeBlanc, seconded by Councillor Poirier that meeting adjourn at 3:10 pm.

CLERK

WARDEN