

**MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2015
1:30 PM**

A meeting of Municipal Council of the County of Inverness was held on Monday, May 4, 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 Gloria LeBlanc
Councillor Dwayne MacDonald
Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie
Councillor Jim Mustard

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 1:40 p.m.

Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie noted that Port Hood Development is unable to attend today's Council session and would like to be added to the agenda for the June meeting.

PRESENTATION BY SEASIDE COMMUNICATIONS – BRENDA STEWART

Warden MacAulay welcomed Brenda Stewart from Seaside Communications. Presentations were made to the Valley Mills Volunteer Fire Dept. and the Margaree Volunteer Fire Dept. on behalf of Seaside Communications for \$1,000 to each Fire Dept. which will be matched by the County.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

That the minutes of the April 13, 2015, Municipal Council meeting be approved.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Page 4 – Cloud Application for the Municipality – replace “if it could go through the ICSP” with “if funding could go through the Federal Gas Tax”.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AUDIT – APRIL 13 & APRIL 30, 2015

Moved by: Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie

Seconded by: Councillor Gloria LeBlanc

Carried.

Councillor Dwayne MacDonald declared a conflict of interest because of the SAT motion.

Resolved that the minutes of the Audit Committee meetings of April 13 & April 30, 2015, be approved and that the recommendations made to Council therein, and the motions passed therein are hereby adopted, approved and passed by Council.

STRAIT AREA TRANSIT – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Councillor Jim Mustard advised that the SAT AGM was held in April with a satisfactory number of attendees. The tracking system is being reviewed as well as several other items.

ENGAGE SESSION

Councillor Mustard reported that the Engage Session was well attended and there were significant ideas and suggestions from those in attendance. A report will be available at a later date.

EASTERN COUNTIES REGIONAL LIBRARY

Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie advised that the rural mobile library was out of service due to the sickness of the staff member and this service should be back in operation within the next several weeks.

MI’CARAME CENTRE

Councillor Gloria LeBlanc noted that the Mi’Caramé Centre has a new enthusiastic board and they have several summer events being organized.

ROBIN’S PROPERTY – CHETICAMP

Joe O’Connor advised that a Public Hearing was held in April and there were no oral or written submissions received and no negative comments from those in attendance.

Moved by: Deputy Warden Alfred Poirier

Seconded by: Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie

Carried.

Note: Warden MacAulay abstained from voting. (He was not in attendance at the Public Hearing)

That the Robin Jones Property located in Cheticamp be transferred to Le Conseil Economique de Cheticamp.

CORRESPONDENCE

STRAIT OF CANSO HARBOUR BED UPDATE

Further correspondence was received from the Chair of the Strait Area Mayors and Wardens with respect to a recent meeting he attended concerning the Strait of Canso Harbour Bed.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AWARENESS MONTH

Moved by: Councillor Gloria LeBlanc

Seconded by: Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie

Carried.

That the month of June be declared “Early Childhood Education Awareness Month”.

APPROVAL OF OPERATING BUDGET – 2016 FISCAL YEAR

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 \$14,241,561.00 are required for the lawful purpose of the said municipality for the year ending March 31, 2015, 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:

2016 General Operating Budget		
<i>Municipality of the County of Inverness</i>		
TAX RATES		
Residential	\$ 1.02	Per \$100 of Assessment
Commercial	\$ 1.85	Per \$100 of Assessment
District 1		
Sewer Maintenance	\$ 0.31	Per \$100 of Assessment
Cheticamp Fire Department Fire Protection	\$ 0.10	Per \$100 of Assessment
Cheticamp Fire Department Fire Protection (Commercial)	\$ 0.06	Per \$100 of Assessment
Pleasant Bay Fire Department Fire Protection	\$ 125.00	Per Dwelling Unit
Meat Cove Fire Department Fire Protection	\$ 60.00	Per Dwelling Unit
District 2		
LeMoine Fire Department Fire Protection	\$ 0.08	Per \$100 of Assessment
LeMoine Fire Department Fire Protection (Commercial)	\$ 0.05	Per \$100 of Assessment
N.E. Margaree Fire Department Fire Protection	\$ 0.10	Per \$100 of Assessment
Margaree Fire Department Fire Protection	\$ 0.10	Per \$100 of Assessment
Margaree Fire Department Fire Protection (Commercial)	\$ 0.05	Per \$100 of Assessment
District 3		
Sewer Maintenance	\$ 0.30	Per \$100 of Assessment
Inverness Fire Department Fire Protection	\$ 0.08	Per \$100 of Assessment
District 4		
Sewer Maintenance	\$ 0.30	Per \$100 of Assessment
Whycocomagh Fire Department Fire Protection	\$ 0.10	Per \$100 of Assessment
Lake Ainslie/Upper Margaree Fire Department Fire Protection	\$ 0.10	Per \$100 of Assessment
Valley Mills Fire Department Fire Protection	\$ 0.10	Per \$100 of Assessment
Blues Mills Fire Department Fire Protection	\$ 0.05	Per \$100 of Assessment
District 5		
Sewer Maintenance	\$ 0.30	Per \$100 of Assessment
Mabou Fire Department Fire Protection	\$ 100.00	Maximum of \$200 where resident has more than two properties
Port Hood Island Fire Department Building	\$ 0.10	Per \$100 of Assessment
Port Hood Fire Department Fire Protection	\$ 0.10	Per \$100 of Assessment
Port Hood Fire Department Fire Protection (Commercial)	\$ 0.06	Per \$100 of Assessment
District 6		
Sewer Maintenance (Judique & Port Hastings)	\$ 0.30	Per \$100 of Assessment
Port Hastings Fire Department Fire Protection	\$ 0.10	Per \$100 of Assessment
West Bay Road Fire Department Fire Protection	\$ 0.10	Per \$100 of Assessment
Judique Fire Department Fire Protection	\$ 0.10	Per \$100 of Assessment

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 August 28th, 2015.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the said Council hereby impose an additional percentage of twelve percent per annum on all rates and taxes remaining unpaid after August 28th, 2015.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council fixes April 1, 2016 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: Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie
Seconded by: Councillor Dwayne MacDonald
Carried.

That the Operating Budget for the year ending March 31, 2016, be approved.

PETITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

NOTICE TO REPEAL HERITAGE BY-LAW #33

Councillor LeBlanc gave notice to repeal Heritage By-Law #33.

FIRST READING OF HERITAGE BY-LAW #33 AMENDMENT

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

That the First Reading of the Heritage By-Law #33 Amendment be approved.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Councillor LeBlanc expressed concern with the condition of the roads and would like to see an assessment carried out of the roads and in particular the Old Cabot Trail Road. Councillor LeBlanc would also like an update on the status of the guard rail on the East Margaree Road and asked that a letter be sent to the DOT to this effect.

CBIHA – ELEVATOR – GRAND ETANG

Warden MacAulay noted that he received a copy of a petition from the Board of Directors of the LeMoine Development Association to the CBIHA in support of the installation of an elevator at the Seniors Complex in Grand Etang.

CBU EVENT – INVERNESS

Councillor Jim Mustard provided information on the CBU event to be held in Inverness on May 12th at the Council of the Arts Centre.

STREET LIGHTS

Councillor Mustard questioned the status of the contractor for street light repairs and Garrett Beaton advised that a contractor has been retained.

PROVINCIAL BUDGET CUTS

Councillor Mustard expressed concern with the provincial cutbacks and in particular with the obstetrics doctors. Warden MacAulay suggested inviting the Provincial Cabinet to host a cabinet session in the County.

ROAD NAME CHANGE APPROVAL

Moved by: Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie

**Seconded by: Councillor Dwayne MacDonald
Carried.**

That the petition received from the residents of “Unnamed Private Road” located in Hillsboro for road to be named “Jigs and Reels Lane” as approved by the EDPC and the DOT be accepted.

VICTORIA COUNTY – PROVINCIAL BUDGET CUTS

Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie commented on the correspondence received from Victoria County in particular with respect to the closure of the provincial courts in the rural areas and the cost related to the RCMP officers having to travel greater distances to attend court.

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

That correspondence be forwarded to Premier MacNeil, with copies to Deputy Premier Diana Whalen, and MLA Allan MacMaster expressing disappointment with the closures of the Gaelic Affairs office in Mabou and the Land Registry Office in Port Hood as well as the transfer of the Provincial Court to the Justice Centre in Port Hawkesbury.

LAND VALUE PROTECTION RESOLUTION

Councillor MacQuarrie questioned the status of the land maps from the EDPC. Joe O’Connor advised that Bryne Butts is looking into this.

STREET LIGHT

Councillor Dwayne MacDonald would like a street light at the intersection of St. Ninian and the Rear Intervale Rd in Judique. Councillor MacDonald will check with the DOT to see if they will install a light at this location.

MILLVILLE SIGN

Councillor MacDonald questioned the status of the Millville sign. We will check with the DOT.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Deputy Warden Alfred Poirier expressed disappointment with the lack of respect from the DOT. He feels that since the loss of the two DOT employees in the north of the County the roads are not maintained as well as previous years.

Moved by: Deputy Warden Alfred Poirier
Seconded by: Councillor Gloria LeBlanc
Carried.

That Council invite the Minister of Transportation to meet with Council.

Warden MacAulay advised that we have invited the Minister to meet with Council and suggested we wait until a response is received from the Minister's office.

SPRING CLEANUP WEEK

Spring Cleanup week is to be held the week of May 25-May 29th.

Council adjourned for a 10 minute break.

“IN CAMERA”

A motion was made by Councillor MacQuarrie, seconded by Councillor MacDonald that meeting adjourn to “In Camera”.

“OPEN COUNCIL”

A motion was made by Councillor LeBlanc, seconded by Councillor Mustard that meeting adjourn to “Open Council”.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF “IN CAMERA”

QUIT CLAIM DEED – SYLVIA WALSH PROPERTY

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

That taxes be reimbursed for property formerly of Sylvia Walsh in exchange for a Quit Claim Deed.

CABOT LINKS - RELEASE OF EASTMENT

Moved by: Councillor Gloria LeBlanc
Seconded by: Deputy Warden Alfred Poirier
Carried.

That the County sign a “Release of Easement” for Cabot Links Venture Inc. releasing interest in PID #50205624 and PID #50154921 for property located in Inverness.

ADJOURNMENT

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

CLERK

WARDEN