

**MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2011
1:30 P.M.**

A meeting of Municipal Council of the County of Inverness was held on Monday, October 3, 2011, at 1:30 p.m. at the Court House in Port Hood with the following in attendance:

Warden Duart MacAulay
Deputy Warden Gloria LeBlanc
Councillor Susan Mallette
Councillor Dwayne MacDonald

Not Present: Councillor Daniel Boudreau
Councillor Jim Mustard

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

Media: Rankin MacDonald, Inverness Oran
Matt Draper, Reporter

CALL TO ORDER

Warden MacAulay called meeting to order at 1:50 p.m.

It was agreed to move forward to Item #3 on the Agenda.

PRESENTATION BY TOM GUNN - NOVA SCOTIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Warden MacAulay welcomed Tom Gunn who advised that this year there are 25,000 NSCC students registered at the 13 campuses across the Province. The Port Hawkesbury campus is one of the largest in the province and one of five marine institutes in Canada. The Port Hawkesbury NSCC is a leader in community based training with the Mi'kmaq communities and they also provide a 2 plus 2 programs which is a 2 year community college and 2 year university program.

PRESENTATION BY DONELDA MACDONALD - INVERNESS CHAPTER OF COUNCIL OF CANADIANS - OIL & GAS EXPLORATION

Warden MacAulay welcomed Donelda MacDonald and other members of the Council of Canadians. Ms. MacDonald provided information on the concerns of the Council of Canadians with respect to oil & gas development in the County and reports that large quantities of municipal water will be sold to aid this drilling process. Ms. MacDonald put forward the following two requests - 1) Immediately passing a resolution that denies selling municipal water

to the oil and gas industry and, if necessary, that further challenges any provincial right to do so.
2) Table for future discussion our request before you today for the creation of both a representative county water committee to advise on a broad range of water issues and, additionally, a request to form a committee to consult with local organizations and individuals with a view to enacting a Community Rights Ordinance that recognizes the rights of county residents to a clean environment that supports a healthy sustainable economy.

Warden MacAulay advised that it is the policy of Council not to pass any resolution before a review and discussion by Council, therefore these requests will be discussed at a committee meeting of Council.

PRESENTATION BY ROBERT PARKINS - LAKE AINSLIE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION - OIL & GAS EXPLORATION

Warden MacAulay welcomed Robert Parkins, Chair of the Lake Ainslie Development Association and other members of the association. Mr. Parkins explained that the association is fundamentally opposed to the oil & gas drilling in the Lake Ainslie area. They are concerned with the close distance the drilling will take place to the land owners and the noise level. The association feels that the health and safety of the residents is being ignored by the Province.

Mr. Parkins put forward the following two requests: 1) That Council pass a resolution that drilling not take place within 2 kms of a dwelling; and 2) That a resolution be passed for no noise between the hours of 11 pm and 6 am the following day.

Warden MacAulay advised that these requests will be considered and discussed at a committee meeting of Council.

PRESENTATION BY ALMON CHISHOLM AND MALCOLM BEATON - STRAIT AREA TRANSIT

Mr. Chisholm updated Council on the Strait Area Transit since its inception to the Inverness area which is being utilized to capacity. Transit was provided to 850 passengers during the month of September. NSCC students are utilizing the bus service and are being charged a one way fee of \$2.25/student. Mr. Chisholm asked that the County review the funding provided to the SAT which is \$7,067.20 less than was requested based on the population serviced.

Warden MacAulay advised that staff will review.

Council adjourned for a five minute break.

Warden MacAulay called meeting back to order at 3:15 p.m.

PRESENTATION BY RUTH SKINNER - INVERNESS ANIMAL CARE CO-OP

Ms. Skinner provided information on the Inverness Animal Care Co-op which is an organization that spays and neuters stray cats at a cost of \$140.00 per animal. They keep the cats for two days after this procedure which may only take place twice monthly and they are looking for a place to house these animals. Ms. Skinner advised that they have received donations and have carried out fundraising events and asked if funding is available from the County for animal care.

Warden MacAulay advised that this request will be reviewed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by: Councillor Dwayne MacDonald
Seconded by: Councillor Susan Mallette.
Carried.

That the minutes of the September 12, 2011, Municipal Council meeting be approved.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Page 6 - Signage Resolution - Councillor Dwayne MacDonald questioned the status of the signage resolution. Mr. O'Connor advised that Solicitor MacIsaac has reviewed the Port Hastings Signage By-Law as well as the amended Public Highways Act - Bill No. 51. Mr. MacIsaac advised that the by-law has to be amended and approved by the Minister of Transportation.

Moved by: Councillor Dwayne MacDonald
Seconded by: Councillor Susan Mallette
Carried.

That a letter be forwarded to John Bain requesting him to start proceedings to amend the Port Hastings Signage By-Law.

Page 5 - Temporary Borrowing Resolution - Should read - **That a Temporary Borrowing Resolution and the issuing of a debenture in the amount of 1 million dollars subject to the approval of the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations for the purpose of water systems be approved.**

CORRESPONDENCE

FALL CLEAN UP WEEK

Moved by: Councillor Susan Mallette
Seconded by: Councillor Dwayne MacDonald

Carried.

That the week of October 24-October 28, 2011, be Fall Clean up Week as recommended by the Director of Public Works.

TENDERS - MEAT COVE BRIDGE

Mr. O'Connor advised that two tenders were received for the bridge and retaining wall reconstruction in Meat Cove - 1) J & T VanZutphen - \$383,000. and - 2) Top Gun Construction Limited - \$263,250.

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

That the tender be awarded to Top Gun Construction Limited for the bid amount of \$263,250.

UNSIGHTLY PREMISES

PROPERTY OF YAN YAN HUANG - 27 MACKENZIE AVENUE - INVERNESS

In response to an unsightly premises complaint received with respect to a trailer located at 27 MacKenzie Ave. in Inverness, Sean Donovan provided a recommendation that a Demolition Order be issued from Council to the property owner.

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

That a notice be forwarded to the property owner advising that this issue will be discussed at the next Municipal Council meeting on November 7, 2011, and inviting the owner to attend this meeting.

PROPERTY OF CANSO COURTS LIMITED - TROY TRAILER COURT

In response to unsightly premises complaints with respect to Trailer #19, #46, #48 & #64 located in the Troy Trailer Court, Sean Donovan provided the following recommendation: That the recommendations as specified in the September 13th letter to Todd Webb, Canso Courts Limited, be carried out within a 30 day period and if no progress has been made then the matter be turned over to the Municipal Solicitor.

PETITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

ROAD NAME CHANGE APPROVAL

Moved by: Councillor Dwayne MacDonald
Seconded by: Councillor Susan Mallette
Carried.

That "Fox Road" located in New Town be re-named "Mildred's Lane" as approved by the Eastern District Planning Commission and the Department of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal.

BUSSING RESOLUTION - MINISTER OF EDUCATION

Councillor Dwayne MacDonald provided the following resolution:

Whereas the Department of Education reduced the 2011-2012 Budget for the Strait Regional School Board by 2.47% in addition to cost pressures for the year; **and**

Whereas the Strait Regional School Board reduced its bus services to cut costs; **and**

Whereas Dept. Of Education guidelines indicate that students in rural areas walk 1.6 km (.8 km is being enforced by the policies of the Strait Regional School Board) to access bussing to school; **and**

Whereas the Dept. Of Education's, "Common Sense Approach", is to tie budget totals to the number of students in this sparsely populated geographic area of Nova Scotia, which has less than 6% of the students, and must cover 20% of the land area; **and**

Whereas young students (e.g., 5 to 7 years) in rural areas of the region are required to walk carrying books and supplies at early times in the mornings (e.g., 7:30 am) along roads without sidewalks where traffic, snowploughs, etc. travel at undetermined times; **and**

Whereas the onus is put on the parents to take the students to the bus stop with a distance of less than .8 km between the residence and the bus stop; **and**

Whereas with closure of industry in the area, it is the case now that one of the parents in families are needing to go elsewhere in Canada for employment and thus only one parent is left home to manage the family; **and**

Whereas the guidelines for students in rural areas is not differentiated from guidelines for students who live with access to sidewalks, relative safety of neighbours, and traffic signals; **and**

Whereas coyotes, lynx, bears, bobcats, moose, etc. inhabit the same rural areas where students are required to walk up to .8 km to access the bus stop; **then**

Be It Resolved **That** the Honourable Minister of Education review the school bussing guidelines for the Province of Nova Scotia to ensure that the safety of our Rural Nova Scotia students take precedence over cuts to budgets; and

That The Honourable Minister of Education review the school bussing guidelines to ensure that Rural Nova Scotia students are not subject to the same guidelines as students with access to sidewalks, traffic signals, nearby residences in an area free of dangerous wild animals.

Moved by: Councillor Dwayne MacDonald
Seconded by: Councillor Susan Mallette
Carried.

That this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Ramona Jennex, Minister of Education, Allan MacMaster, MLA, Jack Beaton, Superintendent and Mary Jess MacDonald, Chair of the Strait Regional School Board, and Councillor Dwayne MacDonald.

INVERNESS LAND USE BY-LAW

Moved by: Councillor Susan Mallette
Seconded by: Deputy Warden Gloria LeBlanc
Carried.

That a request be forwarded to the Eastern District Planning Commission for a review of the Land Use By-Law for Inverness.

ROBIN JONES & WHITMAN BUILDINGS - CHETICAMP

Mr. O'Connor advised that the three Robin Jones properties in Cheticamp will be going on the next tax sale on November 22, 2011. Deputy Warden LeBlanc informed Council that one of the Robin Jones buildings is in a dangerous & unsightly condition.

POLICY MEETING

It was agreed that a Policy Meeting be held on Tuesday, October 11th at 2 pm to discuss the requests from today's presenters.

ADJOURNMENT

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

CLERK

WARDEN