

**MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2015
1:30 PM**

A meeting of Municipal Council of the County of Inverness was held on Monday, October 5, 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
Garett Beaton, Dir/Public Works
Harold MacIsaac, Solicitor

Media: Rankin MacDonald, Inverness Oran
Grant McDaniel, Reporter

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Duart MacAulay called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

That the minutes of the Municipal Council meeting of September 8, 2015, be approved.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Page 4 – Water Services – Mabou – Councillor MacQuarrie explained that due to an investigation carried out by the Director of Public Works it was agreed that an extension of water services in the Mabou area could be detrimental to the water system which is currently working at capacity. Therefore it is not possible to extend the service to this farm and residences.

Page 7 – CAO Review – Councillor Mustard advised that in conversation with our Municipal Advisor, Emily Pond, she agreed to work with Council to carry out a CAO review. Council should have their priorities set before this review takes place.

SECOND READING OF THE INVERNESS MUNICIPAL PLANNING STRATEGY & LAND USE BY-LAW

Warden MacAulay advised that an Open House and Public Hearing was held in Inverness on September 24th and several concerns were brought forward and addressed.

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

That the Second Reading of the Inverness Municipal Planning Strategy & Land Use By-Law be approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FOOD SECURITY

Councillor MacDonald updated Council on the Food Security Committee – At the meeting held last week discussion took place with respect to identifying municipal land for agriculture immigration purposes. A letter has been forwarded to the Minister's of Immigration, Agriculture, Energy, the Premier, and several other interested partners with respect to the committees' interest in an immigration strategy for agriculture.

CAPE BRETON ISLAND MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

Councillor Mustard suggested that someone from the immigration sector as well as Alicia Lake, Coordinator of Pan Cape Breton be invited to make a presentation at this conference which is being hosted by Inverness County.

POLICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Councillor MacDonald informed Council that a Police Advisory meeting was held in September and the issue with the lack of a police presence in the Cheticamp area was brought forward and addressed by Staff Sergeant Shelby Miller. Councillor MacDonald attended a Police Conference in Truro and noted that most of the discussion did not apply to our police advisory committees.

EASTERN COUNTIES REGIONAL LIBRARY

Councillor MacQuarrie stated that strategic planning is being carried out by the Eastern Counties Regional Library to review service delivery.

STRAIT AREA TRANSIT

Councillor Mustard explained that a meeting was held several weeks ago and they will be moving forward with updates to Councils. They have expanded into Victoria County and are in the process of setting up a meeting with Waycobah representatives to discuss servicing this area.

CORRESPONDENCE

BIRD STUDIES CANADA

A response was received from Allison Manthorne, Bird Studies Canada, with regard to Chimney Swifts and their habitats in the County.

FALL CLEAN UP WEEK

The Fall Clean Up week will be held the week of October 26, 2015.

DEMOLITION OF SEWER PLANT – PORT HOOD

On question from Councillor MacQuarrie, Joe O'Connor advised that the demolition of the sewer treatment plant should be completed this fall.

TAX WRITE-OFF

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

That taxes in the amount of \$312.48 – Account #02744112 - Paula & Shaun Thibodeau (house burnt) be approved for write-off.

PETITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Councillor Jim Mustard –

MACKENZIE AVENUE – INVERNESS - Councillor Mustard would like to see completion of the paving on MacKenzie Ave. and asked that the Dept of Transportation be contacted again to see if this paving can be completed.

WATER – INVERNESS – Set up a meeting with Inverness residents for November 28th at the Inverness Fire Hall.

MOTION TO SUPPORT A GOAL FOR A COUNTY WIDE HOUSING STRATEGY AND IMMEDIATE REVIEW OF A HOUSING DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR POSITION

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: a meeting was held with representatives of CMHC, Housing NS, and AHANS on July 2nd in Halifax to explore what was needed for the Municipality of the County of Inverness to undertake a housing strategy;

Whereas: a motion was made and carried at the monthly Inverness Council meeting on July 6th 2015, 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.

Whereas: the committee drafted a contract position of Housing Development Coordinator in response to the recommendation of the advisory team of CMHC, Housing NS and AHANS,

Whereas: a second meeting of the advisory team of CMHC, Housing NS and AHANS was held on September 18th 2015, and the draft position of Housing Development Coordinator was revised and approved in principal and the potential partnerships to support this position were discussed with conditional agreement to contribute to the position being made.

Whereas: at the 2015 UNSM conference this November a workshop titled the **Role of Municipalities in Housing** will be held and will focus on partnerships between municipalities and the Province with respect to affordable housing and other housing options. Presenters: Mr. Dan Troke, President and Chief Executive Officer, Housing Nova Scotia; and Mr. Bob Bjerke , Chief Planner and Director, Halifax.

Whereas: we have had numerous presentations over the years made to us from the private sector, health officials and organizations ... held a housing summit in December, 2014 ... and have discussed this issue at length, it is now time to move forward.

Therefore be it resolved: that we adopt the Goal - to develop a housing strategy that accelerates and guides housing development across our county so that we can meet the needs of our citizens, organizations and the private sector while being able to market our region as open for business.

And be it further resolved: that the Municipality of the County of Inverness meet at an audit committee meeting in the next 2 weeks to review the proposed position along with

the financial commitment needed to support this Goal with a Housing Development Coordinator position.

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

That the resolution as presented be approved.

Councillor Gloria LeBlanc –

Department of Transportation – That a request be forwarded to the DOT asking for a replacement of the “Hidden Driveway” sign at 118 East Margaree Road; also request an immediate progress report on the Crowdis Bridge as well as repair plans for the Cranton Bridge; update on previous request for repair work on the East Margaree Road in the area where the guard rail loosened and part of the roadway is falling in the river.

Deputy Warden Alfred Poirier –

Street Lights – The street lights are being repaired.

CKJM Radio Station – Congratulations to CKJM Radio Station for their 20 years of service.

RCMP – The RCMP presence in the Cheticamp area has improved.

Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarie –

APPOINTMENTS TO THE PORT HOOD AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor MacQuarrie presented the following resolution:

Whereas: According to Section 201 of the Municipal Government Act, we hereby establish through resolution of Council, the Port Hood Area Planning Advisory Committee.

Whereas: For the purpose of reviewing the Port Hood Plan Document new members from the public have come forward with an expression of interest to serve on this committee along with members already active on the Port Hood Area Planning Advisory Committee.

Whereas: An Area Planning Advisory Committee, with jurisdiction over an area that includes all or part of said village does include at least one member appointed by the village commission/development society.

Therefore: Be it resolved that the following community members be appointed to serve on the Port Hood Area Advisory Committee – Donald A MacEachen, John Campbell, Charles MacDonald, Evan MacDonald, Kevin MacDonald, Francis Gillies, and Nancy Cameron as well as the Councillor for District #5.

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

That the resolution as presented be accepted.

PROVINCIAL PICNIC PARK LAND – MABOU

Moved by: Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie
Seconded by: Councillor Jim Mustard
Carried.
2 Nay votes – Warden Duart MacAulay
Councillor Dwayne MacDonald

That a letter of support be forwarded to the past and present Minister of Natural Resources for the conveyance of the Provincial Park land in Mabou to the Mabou Development Association for the purpose of forming a housing development.

Councillor Dwayne MacDonald –

Illegal Signs – Port Hastings – The County has removed the illegal signs in the Port Hastings area.

ADJOURNMENT

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

CLERK

WARDEN