

**MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2014
1:30 PM**

A meeting of Municipal Council of the County of Inverness was held on Monday, September 8, 2014, at 1:30 pm at the Court House in Port Hood with the following in attendance:

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

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

Media: Bill Dunphy, Inverness Oran
Karo Comeau, Reporter

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Duart MacAulay called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

That the minutes of the Municipal Council meeting of July 7, 2014, be approved.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Page 1 – Veterans Memorial Court – On question from Deputy Warden Mustard as to whether the encumbrances have been forwarded to the province, Garret Beaton responded that they have been forwarded.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – 2013-2014

Warden MacAulay advised that the Financial Statements were presented and reviewed at an Audit Committee meeting held previous to Council.

Moved by: Councillor Dwayne MacDonald

Seconded by: Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie
Carried.

That the Consolidated Financial Statements for 2013-2014 be approved.

UNSIGHTLY PREMISES – PROPERTY OF RICHARD & DIANE BLUNDON

Councillor Alfred Poirier reported that the vehicles have been removed and cleanup has been carried out. Joe O'Connor will investigate further.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICY COMMITTEE

Resolved that the minutes of the Policy Committee meeting of July 7, 2014, 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

Resolved that the minutes of the Community Development Committee meeting of July 7, 2014, 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

Councillor Dwayne MacDonald declared a conflict of interest. Deputy Warden Mustard reported that the Port Hawkesbury/ Inverness/Whycocomagh and back to Port Hawkesbury route is underway again. A presentation will be made to Richmond and Port Hawkesbury Councils' in the next several days. An application has been made to the Utility & Review Board for a change to the routes and fairs.

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

That Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie be appointed to the board of the Strait Area Transit.

FOOD & ENERGY COMMITTEES

Councillor MacDonald explained that these committees did not meet during the summer but the Energy Reduction Challenge is ongoing and discussion will take place at their next meeting.

EASTERN COUNTIES REGIONAL LIBRARY

Councillor MacQuarrie advised that the effort of the Eastern Counties Regional Library to situate a branch in Mabou is ongoing.

REN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT

Warden MacAulay reported that the framework for the creation of a Regional Enterprise Network between the Counties of Inverness, Richmond, Victoria and CBRM has been finalized. The startup funding is still being negotiated and the Board of Directors will consist of eight business or community members (two from each municipality). The name has been changed to Business Cape Breton.

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

That Council approve the signing of the Inter-Municipal Agreement framework for the creation of a Regional Enterprise Network with the Counties of Richmond, Victoria and CBRM.

TAX WRITE-OFFS

The following tax accounts were presented for write-off:

- 1) Acct #09846212 – Dist #6 - Judique & District Volunteer Fire Dept. in the amount of \$16,134.11 (incorrect assessment)
- 2) Acct #01711954 – Dist #3 - Alexander Hugh MacDougall in the amount of \$795.20 (house burnt).

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

That the tax accounts as presented for write-off be approved.

CORRESPONDENCE**DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS**

Correspondence was received from the Minister of Municipal Affairs providing a 12 month notice of changes to Provincial Legislation, regulations or administrative actions that could affect revenues and expenditures for Municipal units for fiscal year 2015-2016.

HERITAGE CAPE BRETON CONNECTION

An invitation was received from Heritage Cape Breton Connection asking for consideration for the appointment of a representative from the County to serve on their Board.

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

That Councillor Gloria LeBlanc be appointed to the Board of Heritage Cape Breton Connection.

PETITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

HERITAGE PROPERTY BY-LAW AMENDMENT

Councillor Gloria LeBlanc advised that she has drafted an amendment to the Heritage Property By-Law for Councils' review.

UNSIGHTLY PREMISES – EAST MARGAREE ROAD

Councillor LeBlanc provided an unsightly premises complaint report from a citizen on the East Margaree Road of an old barn which has fallen down. Councillor LeBlanc asked that this complaint be forwarded to the Eastern District Planning Commission.

DOG RUNNING AT LARGE

Councillor LeBlanc asked that a warning letter be forwarded to the owner of the dog which is running at large in the Grand Etang area.

ACCESS CHETICAMP GROUP

Councillor LeBlanc requested that a meeting be set up with the Access Cheticamp Group so they can present their draft report to Council for approval.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Councillor LeBlanc asked that a reminder letter be forwarded to the DOT with respect to the previous request for 1) an assessment for a guard rail at 12094 Cabot Trail; 2) time line for the work on the East Margaree Road and 3) the remainder of the work previously requested on the Portree and Egypt Road.

LE CONSEIL DES ARTS DE CHETICAMP

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

That a letter be forwarded to Le Conseil des arts de Chéticamp in support of their 2015 summer artistic camps for youth, musical theatres and cultural projects.

J ROADS – CHETICAMP

Councillor Poirier requested that a letter be forwarded to the Dept. of Transportation with respect to a time frame for road maintenance on the J Roads in the Cheticamp area.

FISH PLANT WORKERS – CHETICAMP

Councillor Poirier expressed concern with the difficulty of attracting skilled workers to this area.

INVERNESS WATER

Deputy Warden Jim Mustard asked that a community meeting be set up in Inverness to discuss the water quality. After discussion with the Director of Public Works a date of Wednesday, September 24th was agreed upon.

STREET LIGHTS

Deputy Warden Mustard requested an update on the assessment being carried out on the maintenance of street lights in Cheticamp, Inverness, Mabou and Port Hood. Joe O'Connor advised that we are still waiting for a report.

STORM SEWER – MACISAAC STREET

Deputy Warden Mustard asked for an update from the Dept. of Transportation on the storm sewer issue on MacIsaac St.

ROAD NAME CHANGE – HILLTOP LANE

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

That the request from the residents of “Unnamed Private Lane” located in Inverness for road to be named “Hilltop Lane” be approved.

NOVA SCOTIA POWER

Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie informed Council that she has received complaints from residents in the Port Hood area with respect to trees on power lines in this area. Councillor MacQuarrie has been in contact with NSP and was concerned with the time frame for work to be carried out.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Councillor MacQuarrie asked that a letter be forwarded to Bernie Murphy, Traffic Engineer, requesting a reduction in the speed limit or a warning sign at the turn by the Chestico Museum in Port Hood. Also a warning sign of the rough section of road approaching the Captain’s River Bridge in Harbourview (Port Hood).

NON RESIDENT LAND OWNERSHIP

Councillor MacQuarrie advised Council that she has carried out some research on non resident land ownership and provided a copy of a resolution with respect to land value protection to be provided to Council.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – SIGNAGE

Councillor Dwayne MacDonald explained the need for a “Children Playing” sign at 1620 Crandall Rd and questioned whether the county has a policy with respect to this type of sign. Joe O’Connor advised that the county does not install these types of signs.

ILLEGAL DUMPING

Councillor MacDonald expressed concern with the illegal dumping which is occurring in the County. Councillor MacDonald is currently drafting an illegal dumping policy.

ROAD NAME CHANGE – BLUE RIDGE RD

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

That the petition received from the residents of “MacEachern Rd” (Kingsville side) located in Queensville for road to be re-named “Blue Ridge Rd” be forwarded to the DOT and the EDPC for approval.

ROAD NAME CHANGES

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

That the petition received from the residents of “5051 Rd” for road to be named “Dougie’s Lane” be approved.

That the petition received from the residents of “5126 Rd” for road to be named “Castle Lane”.

“IN CAMERA”

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

“OPEN COUNCIL”

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

RECOMMENDATIONS OF “IN CAMERA”

There were no recommendations from “In Camera”

ADJOURNMENT

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

CLERK

WARDEN