

**MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2013
1:30 PM**

A meeting of Municipal Council of the County of Inverness was held on Monday, September 9, 2013, at 1:30 pm 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 Jim Mustard

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

Not Present: Councillor Alfred Poirier

Media: Rankin MacDonald, Inverness Oran
Adam Cooke, Reporter
Brad Perry, The Hawk

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

That the minutes of the Municipal Council meeting of July 8, 2013, be accepted.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Page 6 – Generator – Banks Road – Councillor Mustard questioned whether a quote for a generator on the Banks Road had been received. Garret Beaton advised that the quote received was \$19,500. and it was agreed that Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Beaton work on a recommendation for Council.

Warden MacAulay asked that agenda move forward to Petitions and Resolutions as Deputy Warden MacDonald has to leave due to another commitment.

PETITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

TAX WRITE-OFF

Deputy Warden MacDonald presented the following tax account for write-off – Acct# 02887762, Alphonse B. MacLellan in the amount of \$543.20. (house burnt).

Moved by: Deputy Warden Dwayne MacDonald

Seconded by: Councillor Gloria LeBlanc

Carried.

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

CELTIC TOUCH DANCERS

Deputy Warden MacDonald commended the Celtic Touch Dancers on placing 6th in the World Championship in Scotland.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Moved by: Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie

Seconded by: Councillor Jim Mustard

Carried.

Resolved that the minutes of the Community Development Committee meeting of July 8, 2013, be approved and that the recommendations made to Council therein, and the motions passed therein are hereby adopted, approved and passed by Council.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Moved by: Councillor Jim Mustard

Seconded by: Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie

Carried.

Resolved that the minutes of the Policy Committee meeting of July 8, 2013, be approved and that the recommendations made to Council therein, and the motions passed therein are hereby adopted, approved and passed by Council.

AMENDMENT – LOW INCOME TAX EXEMPTION POLICY

Warden MacAulay advised that an amendment to the Low Income Tax Exemption Policy was reviewed at a Policy Committee meeting held previous to Council.

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

That the Low Income Tax Exemption Policy be amended as follows - for exemption to read - "\$150.00 for owners of property whose total household income is less than \$24,999. Residents who are eligible to receive a rebate from other governing bodies will not be eligible for this exemption".

CORRESPONDENCE

SERVICE NOVA SCOTIA & MUNICIPAL RELATIONS – MUNICIPAL ADVISOR

Correspondence was received from SNSMR advising that effective September 1st Paul Wills has been appointed our new Municipal Advisor. Warden MacAulay thanked Mark Peck for his assistance and expertise as our Municipal Advisor over the past number of years.

UNSM – MUNICIPALITIES PENSION PLAN

Correspondence received from the UNSM informed Council that the UNSM is ceasing its sponsorship of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities Pension Plan effective March 31, 2014. Warden MacAulay noted that staff will review and bring a recommendation to the Audit Committee.

PETITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Councillor LeBlanc asked that correspondence be forwarded to the DOT requesting that the trees cut by the Cranton and the North East Margaree Bridges be removed. Also that repair work be carried out on the slope failure on the highway between East Margaree and Belle Cote.

ABANDONED SERVICE STATION

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

That correspondence be forwarded to Irving Oil requesting an update as to what the intention is for the abandoned service stations in Margaree Forks and Whycocomagh.

CELL COVERAGE – MARGAREES

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

That correspondence be forwarded to Bell Mobility with regard to the lack of cell service in Margaree and surrounding areas.

ROAD NAME CHANGE – TREUBURG LANE

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

That the petition received from the residents of Treuburg Road for road to be re-named “Treuburg Lane” be forwarded to the EDPC and the Dept. of Transportation for approval.

PORT HOOD ISLAND AREA RATE

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

That an additional fire protection area rate of 10¢/\$100. of assessment be added to the tax accounts of the residents of Port Hood Island for the purpose of building a structure to house a fire truck.

POLICING – DRIVER SAFETY

Councillor MacQuarrie expressed concern with the safety of drivers in some of the local communities. It was agreed that this item be discussed at the Police Advisory Committee meeting on Sept. 18th.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – SIGNAGE

Councillor Mustard provided information on his meeting with Bernie Murphy, DOT, with respect to signage and speed limits in Inverness. Councillor Mustard asked that a meeting be set up with Council and Mr. Murphy to discuss his recommendations.

FOOD SECURITY WORKSHOP

Moved by: Councillor Jim Mustard

Seconded by: Councillor Betty Ann MacQuarrie
Carried.

That Inverness County participate in the island wide Food Security Workshop with producers, consumers, and municipal leaders which is to be held in Baddeck on October 22nd.

CAT SCAN - ICMH

Councillor Mustard provided the following resolution:

WHEREAS The Inverness Consolidated Memorial Hospital is a key service for the County of Inverness;
WHEREAS The ICMH, as a regional hospital, is in a unique physical location @ 2 hours from the next nearest regional full service hospital;
WHEREAS The perioperative services being offered at the ICMH are being reviewed and we need to retain surgical services being offered at the ICMH not lose them;
WHEREAS We need to expand the diagnostic services offered at our regional hospital to improve patient care and attract new surgical doctors in light of our unique situation;
WHEREAS It has been reported that yearly there can be up to 700 trips to obtain a CAT scan;
WHEREAS It has also been reported that the ambulatory services used to transport patients for a CAT scan takes at least 6 hours and costs \$1200 per trip;
WHEREAS The cost of a CAT scan is 1 million dollars and the ICMH Foundation has approved the ¼ community share needed for the purchase;
WHEREAS The municipality needs to help advocate for a CAT scan for the ICMH as part of the value proposition for our regional revitalization, as well as to ensure the best patient care for any and all citizens in our region;
BE IT RESOLVED That the Inverness Municipal Council ask the CHDHA CAO Diane Calvert-Simms to meet with Council asap to review the way the Auditor General's decision was made with regards to allocating new equipment for the ICM Hospital;
BE IT RESOLVED That we made sure all three political leaders understand that we have been promised a CAT scan for 10 years and this is a priority for our county. We demand action now to improve patient care in Inverness County by committing to putting a CAT scan at the ICMH immediately.

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

That the resolution as presented be adopted and forwarded to Diane Calvert-Simms, CEO, Cape Breton District Health Authority.

MABOU PLAYGROUND

Councillor MacQuarrie congratulated the Mabou Playground Committee, the Mabou Development Association and the community of Mabou on their success in building a playground in their community.

NOTICE OF MOTION - MUNICIPAL ANTENNAE SITE PROCEDURE POLICY – REPEAL

Joe O'Connor advised that in discussions with the Planning Commission it was felt that it is no longer necessary for the County to have a Municipal Antennae Policy.

Councillor Mustard gave notice of his intention to propose a motion to repeal the Municipal Antennae Site Procedure Policy at the October 7th Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

CLERK

WARDEN