

Municipal Council Meeting
Council Chambers
May 1, 2017
1:30 pm

A meeting of municipal council was held on Monday May 1, 2017 at 1:30 pm at the municipal building in Port Hood with the following in attendance:

Warden Betty Ann MacQuarrie
Deputy Warden Alfred Poirier
Councillor Laurie Cranton
Councillor John MacLennan
Councillor John Dowling
Councillor Jim Mustard

Staff: Joe O'Connor, CAO
Donna MacDonald, Dir/Recreation & Tourism
Garett Beaton, Dir/Public Works

Maurice Boudreau, Solicitor
Emily Pond, Municipal Advisor
Ellen Murphy, Council Recorder

Media: Rankin MacDonald, Inverness Oran
Brendan Shaughnessy, 1015thehawk

Warden Betty Ann MacQuarrie called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES APRIL 3, 2017

**Moved by Councillor Cranton
Seconded by Councillor MacLennan
Carried**

That the minutes of the municipal council meeting of April 3, 2017, be approved

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor Dowling asked if the letters had been sent to Department of Transportation regarding the crosswalk request in Port Hastings and regarding the recent closure of the Canso Causeway.

Warden MacQuarrie welcomed the following presenters:
Paul Strome – Cultures Collective
Carla Arsenault – Partnership for Municipal Innovation

Amanda Bresson presented cheques to Lake Ainslie and Lemoine Fire Departments as the 2016/17 winners of the Volunteer Fire Department Innovative in Inverness County

Committee Reports

Audit – April 11

**Moved by Councillor MacLennan
Seconded by Councillor Poirier
Carried**

That the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting be approved

Correspondence

PROCLAMATION

Lyme Disease Awareness Month May 2017

*WHEREAS Lyme Disease is a serious illness caused by the bite of a black-legged tick infected with the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*; and*

WHEREAS black-legged ticks carrying a variety of diseases or illnesses can now be found in all parts of Nova Scotia; and

WHEREAS awareness, education and practicing preventative measures, such as daily tick checks and proper tick removal, can help reduce your chances of contracting tick borne diseases;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Warden Betty-Ann MacQuarrie, on behalf of the Municipality of the County Inverness, do hereby proclaim May 2017 as "Lyme Disease Awareness Month."

Petitions and Resolutions

Councillor Poirier

- Claude Poirier position as representative on the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority for the municipality is expiring this month.

**Moved by Deputy Warden Poirier
Seconded Councillor Dowling
Motion Carried**

That Claude Poirier be appointed to the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority board as a municipal representative for another term

- Cheticamp farmers have signed another lease for the land on Cheticamp Island as pasture with the province of Nova Scotia
- Pleasant Bay cell service says that the federal government has to approve the cable according to Andrew Morrison of Bell Aliant
- Set a date for staff to visit Meat Cove and Pleasant Bay for community development discussion

Councillor MacLennan

- Complaints are still coming in to him regarding the condition of roads in his district.
- Are old streetlights being changed with LED lights? If so how does this happen? NS Power put in new LED lights when we request new lights and as old sodium lights burn out they are replaced with LED's.
- Has the Strait Regional School Board contacted the municipality about the old board office on Cemetery Road in Port Hastings? The board has not declared it surplus yet, most likely August, but it could be sooner if the municipality has any expressions of interest in it.
- Thanks to the Public Works for the lights that have already been installed

Councillor Mustard

- Has there been any response to the RFP on strategic planning. We had one request for more information and that was passed on. If there are no proposals submitted Joe will consult with Emily Pond on next steps.
- Could the street cleaner come through now and possibly more than once a year? It looks nicer when the tourists come through town
- There are three proposed sites for crosswalks in Inverness and Garrett will look into having flags put up to mark those crosswalks
- The road leading to the Inverness County Council of the Arts building needs to be graded especially now that the building is being used by Elections Nova Scotia
- Raising the Villages group is trying to reach 500 people
- There is a meeting regarding the broad band through Eastlink on Thursday May 4 in Whycomomagh at the fire hall

Councillor Cranton

- A privately owned water system in Margaree Forks had looked for funding through the province but MLA Alan MacMaster informed Councillor Cranton that there was no funding left to apply for at this time. A budget for the system must be put together in order for the group of homeowners to move forward. Joe, Garrett, Councillor Cranton and Stephen Chiasson will sit down to discuss this.
- Home owners in my district are operating their own rental properties. The municipality does ask PVSC to check into these properties for reassessment
- There will be a drive around in Councillor Cranton's district with Steve MacDonald, Department of Transportation to look at the condition of roads
- Could the municipalities of Inverness, Victoria, Guysborough, Antigonish and St. Mary's meet with the federal and provincial government regarding cell service coverage

Councillor Cranton

Seconded by Deputy Warden Poirier

Motion Carried

That a loan guarantee in the amount of \$200,000 for the Margaree Forks Volunteer Fire Department for the purchase of a new truck be approved

Councillor Cranton
Seconded by Councillor MacLennan
Motion Carried

That Roger Mombourquette and Matthew Hart be approved to sit on the Margaree Airport Committee

Councillor Dowling

- Judique Volunteer Fire Department has submitted a request for more fire hydrants in coordination with the new reservoir being built in Judique. They would also like to have a dry hydrant. Joe and Garrett can meet with the fire department anytime to discuss this.
- The discussion regarding both airports in the county has gone on long enough.

Councillor Dowling
Seconded by Councillor MacLennan

Whereas: Port Hawkesbury Airport has been in operation for 40 plus years and has historically served the counties of Inverness, Richmond, Guysborough, Antigonish and the Town of Port Hawkesbury and has had recent developments and expansion plans announced to offer enhanced service moving forward,

Whereas: Margaree Airstrip would be a substantial capital investment for all three levels of government and any cost over runs would be the responsibility of the Municipality of the County of Inverness,

Whereas: Since the plan for the Margaree Airstrip expansion was announced in 2014, many new capital infrastructure projects have become funding priorities, Mabou sewer, Whycomomagh sewer, Judique water, Inverness water, etc...

Whereas: Taxpayers funds could also be more wisely invested in infrastructure projects in Inverness County throughout the six districts to make our region more attractive for business, affordable housing, high speed fibre connectivity and cell service and early child development,

Be it resolved: that the Municipality of the County of Inverness withdraw financial support for the "proposed" expansion of the Margaree Airstrip and fully support the continued operation and improvement of the Port Hawkesbury Airport that is located in Inverness County,

Be it also resolved: that the Municipality of the County of Inverness welcome the possibility of "private" investment for the expansion of the Margaree Airstrip.

Discussion on the motion took place and it was agreed that the previous motions would have to be rescinded before Councillor Dowling's motion could be voted upon

Councillor Mustard
Seconded by Deputy Warden Poirier
Motion carried

That the motion by Councillor Dowling be tabled at this time

**Moved by Councillor Dowling
Seconded by Deputy Warden Poirier
Motion Carried**

Warden MacQuarrie turned meeting over to Deputy Warden Poirier

**Moved By Warden MacQuarrie
Moved By Councillor MacLennan
Motion Carried**

That May be declared Gaelic Awareness Month, Lyme Disease Awareness Month and Multiple Sclerosis Awareness month

**Moved By Deputy Warden Poirier
Moved By Councillor Cranton
Motion Carried**

That the letter supporting the application for PCAP funding, in the amount of \$135,000 at 50% cost share between the municipality and the province, be approved

"In Camera"

**Moved By Deputy Warden Poirier
Moved By Councillor Cranton
Motion Carried**

That council move to "in camera"

A conflict was declared by Maurice Boudreau, EMM Law and Warden Betty Ann MacQuarrie

Recommendation from "In Camera"

**Moved by Councillor Dowling
Seconded by Councillor MacLennan
Motion Carried**

That the deed from EMM Law on behalf of Curtis Gerard MacNeil of Port Hood be approved

Next council meeting June 12, 2017 at 1:30pm

With no further business to discuss a motion was made by Councillor Cranton, seconded by Deputy Warden Poirier that the meeting adjourn at 3:58pm.