

**Regular Council Meeting
Council Chambers
January 8th, 2018
1:30pm**

A meeting of Municipal Council was held on Monday, January 8th, 2018 at 1:30pm at the Municipal Building in Port Hood with the following in attendance:

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

Staff: Tanya Tibbo, Interim CAO/ Director of Finance
 Donna MacDonald, Director Recreation/Tourism
 Garett Beaton, Director Public Works
 Harold MacIsaac, Solicitor
 Ellen Murphy, Administrative Assistant
 Lisa Organ, Recreation/Tourism

Media: Rankin MacDonald, Inverness Oran
 Grant McDaniel, Port Hawkesbury Reporter

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Betty Ann MacQuarrie called the meeting to order at 1:28pm.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES – DECEMBER 4TH, 2017

MOVED: Councillor MacLennan

SECONDED: Councillor Dowling

MOTION: That the minutes of the municipal council meeting of December 4th, 2017, be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor Cranton asked if there had been a response from NSDOTIR regarding the Cranton Bridge. Interim CAO responded saying there was not.

Councillor Mustard reported that Stantec met on site with Mill Road Social Enterprises regarding the remediation of a portion of the property in Inverness. More information will come from Stantec.

APPROVAL OF POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES – DECEMBER 4TH, 2017

MOVED: Councillor Dowling
SECONDED: Councillor Cranton
MOTION: That the minutes of the Policy Meeting of December 4th, 2017 be approved.
MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS

Mary Tulle, Destination Cape Breton

DCBA was formed in 2011. This in turn led to a marketing levy for the entire island of Cape Breton. Strong funding came from Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation and Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency with initial program and core funding from Tourism Nova Scotia. A mandate was established: DCBA is dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of tourism on Cape Breton Island. A tourism strategy was adopted which consisted of research, product development and marketing. Website sessions are up 43% over 2016 adjusted non-Trump Bump sessions. Followers on social media such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram are all up respectively 15%, 52% and 157%. Focus is on meetings and events, corporate incentive travel, sporting events. Strong sales focus in partnership with key stakeholders such as Cape Breton Partnership, municipalities, Chambers of Commerce, CBU, NSCC, First Nation Communities, hotel properties, offsite venues. USA Today Reader's Choice Awards ranked the Cabot Trail #1 as the best scenic drive in Canada, Cape Breton Highlands National Park #1 as the best national park in Canada and The Bras d'Or Lake #3 in the best cottage region in Canada. This year has seen the best spring and summer seasons on record. Winter tourism is also being explored. There will an island wide session the first of March and anyone can attend.

St Martha's Regional Hospital Endowment Fund – Steve Smith

There was a cheque presentation in the amount of \$25,000.00 to the fundraising committee by Council.

APPROVAL OF MEETING ATTENDANCE BY TELEPHONE/VIDEO/VIRTUAL POLICY

MOVED: Councillor Cranton
SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan
MOTION: That the Meeting Attendance by Telephone/Video/Virtual Policy be approved as amended.
MOTION CARRIED

FOYER PERE FISET MORTGAGE GUARANTEE

MOVED: Deputy Warden Poirier
SECONDED: Councillor Dowling
MOTION: Resolved by the Municipality of the County of Inverness that pursuant to Section 17(1) of the Municipal Housing Corporation Act, RSNS 1989 c.304, the Municipality of the County of Inverness hereby undertakes to guarantee to Housing Nova Scotia the payment of the Mortgage being presently granted by Housing Nova Scotia to the

County of Inverness Municipal Housing Corporation, in respect of the Foyer Pere Fiset Nursing Home property at Cheticamp, Nova Scotia, to the extent of the amount of any taxes, charges, or arrears of taxes or charges and interest outstanding against the Foyer Pere Fiset Nursing Home property, at any time, that Housing Nova Scotia deems it necessary to take enforcement proceedings for the payment of its said Mortgage.

MOTION CARRIED

WATER RATE STUDY APPLICATION TO NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD

MOVED: Councillor Dowling

SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan

MOTION: That the Municipality of the County of Inverness apply to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board for changes in its rates for water and water service, fire protection to the Municipality and changes to its rules and regulations for customers served by the Inverness County Water Utility, as set out in the Water Rate Study prepared by G.A. Isenor Consulting Ltd. in association with Blaine S. Rooney Consulting Ltd.

MOTION CARRIED

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Finance/Interim CAO

- Escribe training for council will be done when the new CAO has been hired and it will take approximately an hour.
- The Housing Coordinator will be starting on Monday, January 22nd and it will be two days a week in the municipal building and the other days in St. Joseph du Moine.
- Shared IT services with other municipalities is being looked at and possible funding is available through municipal affairs.
- The receivables for the year seem to be ahead of schedule. It is usually 90% at the end of the year.
- The resolution for the mortgage for Foyer Pere Fiset is being sent to the Minister of municipal affairs as well as the minister of community services.
- The organizational review has been implemented, but it needs to be adopted by council. The strategic plan final draft has not been received.

Public Works

- Archibald Engineering have a conceptual plan for renovations to council chambers. CBREN has funding available to utilize the space that is available in this building with such things as community meeting space, office rental, etc. Hopefully the renovations will be completed by March 31, 2018.
- The Judique water project has been shut down until the spring and a request was submitted for an extension for completion date, but it was not approved by the province as of yet.
- A direct contact at Nova Scotia Power would be ideal to avoid an issue like we had in Mabou on the weekend. This could be input into the emergency plan for the county.

MOVED: Councillor Cranton

SECONDED: Councillor Dowling

MOTION: That the Municipality write a letter to Bell Aliant regarding the lack of landline service, when there is a power outage, and no cell phone coverage at any time in rural parts of the county

MOTION CARRIED

Recreation/Tourism

- The signage plan is still being worked on with the department of transportation with progress made with some signs. A meeting will be held with Dept of Fisheries and Aquaculture to make sure everyone is onboard with the signage plan. Active transportation report should be coming soon and the attendance was not very good at the public meetings held.

PETITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Councillor MacLennan

- Power outages during the recent storm caused residents to be upset with restoration times.
- Plowing of roads not being done.
- Meet with Minister Hines and MLA MacMaster to discuss road issues in the county.

Councillor Mustard

- Contact the school board to reschedule the meeting that was postponed. More information is still needed municipally.
- George Stoupakis is having issues with his sewer service. Garrett will address this with George because it is too shallow and may be moved to another location.
- Meet onsite with Bernie Murphy, NSDOTIR, to adjust the speed limit on the hill in the north end of Inverness to see what has to be done.
- The provincial accessibility committee will be meeting Feb 13 or 14th. The municipal committee will meet before that.
- Raising the Villages meeting is scheduled for Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre, Bear Head conference room on January 24th. There is also a meeting in Whycomomagh at the water front centre Jan 9th at 12 noon of the chiefs, warden and mayor before the proclamation is made. Deputy Warden Poirier will attend the Whycomomagh meeting in place of the Warden.
- Inverness Visitor's Centre invoice will be brought to an audit committee meeting.
- Put together a budget for the crosswalks in Inverness for council.
- There is a forestry meeting in Middle River on January 20th to find out if there is enough interest to develop a forestry hub. Municipalities would be involved to bring interested parties together.

MOVED: Councillor Mustard

SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan

MOTION: That approval for a loan guarantee for Lake Ainslie Fire Department in an amount to be determined move forward.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillor Cranton

- A property owner on the Simon Aucoin Road wants to have the road listed. It is currently owned by Department of Natural Resources, but there is no maintenance now. There are four homes on it now and they would like to have services on the road, NSDOITR does not want it. Councillor Cranton will talk to NSDOTIR himself and follow up with the property owner.

MOVED: Councillor Cranton

SECONDED: Councillor Dowling

MOTION: That a letter be sent to the minister of transportation along, with a copy of the previous letter received, to get an update on the progress of the Cranton Crossroad bridge repair and also ask what is happening with the awarded contract of the repair of the Margaree Road.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillor Dowling

- Contacting NSDOTIR about roads not being plowed, sanded or salted
- A request was made by a resident to pursue costs to extend the sewer and water system from Port Hasting north about 1 km as well as to the Troy Trailer Park.
- A meeting with Eastlink about cell service and internet should be soon. More information is coming on when and where.
- There is an airshow coming to the Port Hawkesbury Airport.
- There is a lot of talk about a golf course in West Mabou but more information is needed because it is in the preliminary stages of possible development. Council will continue to monitor the situation.

Deputy Warden Poirier

- Garbage collection has not been done in the Pleasant Bay for four weeks. This needs to be addressed.
- There are roads in the Cheticamp area that are not being plowed when there is snowfall. There are residents trying to get to work who need to find alternative ways of transportation especially nurses at the hospital and home care.
- The paving of the J-roads in Cheticamp. Which ones are being done?
- January 18th 4-6pm in Cheticamp at the Seniors Hall there will be an information session on immigration in Atlantic Canada.

MOVED: Deputy Warden Poirier

SECONDED: Councillor Cranton

MOTION: That the municipality pursue a meeting with the minister of transportation regarding winter maintenance in Cheticamp and Pleasant Bay, summer and winter maintenance on all J-Roads especially in Cheticamp and paving

MOTION CARRIED

Deputy Warden Poirier took the chair.

Warden MacQuarrie

- 140 High Road in Port Hood will be addressed by Eastern District Planning Commission.
- A letter was received from Ed & Linda Chirico on the condition of the MacKinnon Road, Hayes River that is being sent to Minister Lloyd Hines.

Warden MacQuarrie took back chair.

CORRESPONDENCE

MOVED : Councillor Dowling

SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan

MOTION: That a letter be sent in support of Parker Donham of Seaside Communications.

MOTION CARRIED

A letter was received from Stacy Goswell regarding Food Security and Councillor Mustard will respond.

MOVED: Councillor Dowling

SECONDED: Deputy Warden Poirier

MOTION: That a letter be written to both the NDP caucus and UNSM in support of new legislation for parental leave.

MOTION CARRIED

MOVED: Councillor Cranton

SECONDED: Councillor Dowling

MOTION: That council move to “In Camera” at 3:45pm

MOTION CARRIED

“IN-CAMERA” RECOMMENDATION

MOVED: Councillor Dowling

SECONDED: Councillor Mustard

MOTION: That the solicitor draw up a lease for land located in Inverness, on behalf of the municipality, with Route 19 Brewing Inc.

MOTION CARRIED

MOVED: Deputy Warden Poirier

SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan

MOTION: That council move to back to council at 4:25pm.

MOTION CARRIED

The next Regular Council Meeting February 5th, 2018 at 1:30pm.

MOVED: Councillor Dowling
SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan
MOTION: To adjourn at 4:30pm.
MOTION CARRIED

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

WARDEN