

**Regular Council Meeting
Council Chambers
February 5th, 2018
1:30pm**

A meeting of Municipal Council was held on Monday, February 5th, 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

Media: Rankin MacDonald, Inverness Oran
 Grant McDaniel, Port Hawkesbury Reporter
 1015 The Hawk

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Betty Ann MacQuarrie called the meeting to order at 1:32pm.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES – JANUARY 8TH, 2018

MOVED: Councillor Cranton

SECONDED: Councillor Dowling

MOTION: That the minutes of the municipal council meeting of January 8th, 2018, be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

It was noted by Councillor Cranton that the meeting with Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, Lloyd Hines, was set for February 14, 2018 in Halifax.

APPROVAL OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES – JANUARY 8TH, 2018

MOVED: Councillor Dowling

SECONDED: Councillor Cranton

MOTION: That the minutes of the Audit Meeting of January 8th, 2018 be approved.
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES – JANUARY 22ND, 2018

MOVED: Councillor Cranton
SECONDED: Councillor Mustard
MOTION: That the minutes of the Policy Meeting of January 22nd, 2018 be approved.
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF AUIDT COMMITTEE MINUTES – JANUARY 29TH, 2018

MOVED: Councillor Dowling
SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan
MOTION: That the minutes of the Audit Meeting of January 29th, 2018 be approved.
MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS

Joe Janega

Joe presented on subdivision review, in particular, the situation pertaining to crossing of railways for land development. The old railway lines are now trails and are owned by Department of Natural Resources. A license can be obtained for crossing from the Department of Natural Resources but this is still not rectifying the issue of subdivision for property owners on the coastal side of the Celtic Shores Trail. These landowners are prevented from subdividing by an outdated by-law. Joe is asking council to meet with the planning commission to review the subdivision by-law, for such property owners, so they can possibly subdivide their property for future development in the county. He wants a legitimate reason why this cannot be done. The municipal subdivision by-law cannot supersede provincial subdivision. The municipal government act is currently being reviewed and a letter was sent by previous council to look at this particular issue in that review.

PVSC- Carlos Resendes

Property Valuation Services Corporation is municipally funded, independent, not-for-profit organization that provides assessment services to 50 municipalities in NS. They are governed by a board of directors, have 135 employees, approximately 620,000 assessment accounts. They provide annual assessment rolls to municipalities and annual assessment notices to property owners. Assessments for 2018 are based on market value at January 2017. There is a 31 day appeal period. The appeal date is February 15, 2018. PVSC is working on bringing all air B&B's as some are currently only assessed residential and others are assessed commercial. PVSC is also working with the UNSM on the assessment of forestry and farming lands as the legislation is very vague at this time. The office located in the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre will be closing and assessors will be working from home. Offices will be located in Truro and Sydney.

Protect West Mabou Beach – Nadine Hunt

The West Mabou Beach Provincial Park I is a large coastal property on the Northumberland Strait with beautiful sand beach and important conservation values. It contributes to the province's goal of protecting 12% of the land base by 2015; unique dune field, one species of bird found at the park is listed as critically imperilled and another two species vulnerable to extirpation or extinction. In addition, two species of vascular plants were listed as imperilled and one species as vulnerable to extirpation or extinction. The education values range from local to regional themes including landforms, dune ecology, coastal processes and wildlife. It is important in regional tourism infrastructure; just off Ceilidh Trail; one of the region's nicest beaches, significant tourist attraction, one of few high quality public beaches on west coast of Cape Breton. Preserving the existing land base in public ownership is essential in maintaining the long-term ecological integrity of the site while accommodating public access to recreation. Previous attempts at development on this site triggered wide spread erosion resulting from disturbing the very fine clay/silt soils on the site.

DANGEROUS & UNSIGHTLY PREMISES – RECOMMENDATION TO DEMOLISH 140 HIGH ROAD

The property owners were not able to attend council but had sent an email to John Bain, EDPC asking for an extension of the demolition order. They understand that the property must be demolished and they are willing to take it on themselves.

MOVED: Councillor Cranton

SECONDED: Councillor Dowling

MOTION: That council extend the property owners of 140 High Road in Port Hood a 60 day extension of the demolition order

MOTION CARRIED

NOTICE OF MOTION TO ADOPT DANGEROUS & UNSIGHTLY PREMISES POLICY

MOVED: Deputy Warden Poirier

SECONDED: Councillor Dowling

MOTION: That notice be given to adopt "Dangerous & Unsightly Premises Policy" at the March 5th 2018 regular council meeting

MOTION CARRIED

ORGANIZATIONAL REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

MOVED: Councillor Mustard

SECONDED: Councillor Dowling

MOTION: That the Municipality accept the recommendations developed in the Organizational Review as presented by Davis Pier on December 12th 2017

MOTION CARRIED

FIRST READING OF DOG CONTROL BYLAW

MOVED: Councillor Dowling

SECONDED: Deputy Warden Poirier

MOTION: That first reading of the Dog Control By-law be approved

MOTION CARRIED

INVERNESS VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

MOVED: Councillor Mustard

SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan

MOTION: That the funding in the amount of \$2500.00 for the Inverness Visitor Information Centre be dispersed from District 3 community development fund discretionary funds

MOTION CARRIED

NAMARA SENIORS CLUB

MOVED: Councillor Mustard

SECONDED: Councillor Cranton

MOTION: That the funding in the amount of \$600.00 for the Namara Seniors Club be dispersed from the District 3 community development fund discretionary funds

MOTION CARRIED

MALAGAWATCH CEMETERY

MOVED: Councillor Dowling

SECONDED: Deputy Warden Poirier

MOTION: That the funding in the amount of \$4000.00 for the Malagawatch Cemetery be dispersed from the District 4 community development fund discretionary funds

MOTION CARRIED

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Finance/Interim CAO

- An application for Innovative Spaces funding through the Cape Breton Partnership will be filled out when Keith MacDonald starts as CAO
- Vacation property owners in the county are being contacted by PVSC to be assessed individually and if they are commercial properties they will be on the roll next year
- Bell Aliant was contacted, Mark Duggan, all services are dependent on having power. Batteries were tested and are supposed to last for 15 hours. Batteries in Lake Ainslie and Marble Mountain areas were replaced in 2016. The issue was the length of the power being out

Public Works

- H2O, Graham MacDonald and his brother, detected two major leaks in Mabou and those leaks were repaired. He will also go to Whycomomagh for leak the detection there hopefully before too long

Recreation/Tourism

- There has no more progress made on the gateway sign being erected at the rotary in Port Hastings. There was a meeting with Darren Blundon and Eugene Cameron, NSDOTIR, to review directional signage. Darren Blundon does not have authority for the signage on 100 series highways

CORRESPONDENCE

ORDER OF NOVA SCOTIA

Applications can be submitted by March 16st, 2018 for people who have made an exceptional contribution to their community and the province. Applications can be submitted by mail or online.

UNSM

A response to the proposed name change was received and it will be revisited at the board meeting. Further developments will be passed on.

EPILEPSY

A letter was received recognizing March as Epilepsy month. Pins will be ordered for council on March 5th

TOWN OF PORT HAWKESBURY LETTER

MOVED: Deputy Warden Poirier

SECONDED: Councillor Dowling

MOTION: That a letter be written to the Town of Port Hawkesbury to support their effort in having " Unama"ki added to the Welcome to Cape Breton sign at the Canso Causeway

MOTION CARRIED

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF GUYSBOROUGH

They are asking for support for the following motion:

That the Council of the Municipality of the County of Inverness write the Premier of Nova Scotia, With copies to all members of the Legislature, indicating that, in light of the recent release of the Nova Scotia Onshore Petroleum Atlas Project confirming the economic potential for onshore hydrocarbon, that we strongly urge the Province to create regulations and legislation that remove the ban on fracking in NS and design a program that provides strict guidelines and parameters under which a pilot project can be initiated to determine whether this resource can be safely developed for the benefit of all Nova Scotians.

This letter be referred to the next Policy Committee meeting

MOVED: Councillor MacLennan
SECONDED: Councillor Dowling
MOTION: That the council be adjourned to “in camera” at 3:56pm
MOTION CARRIED

“IN-CAMERA”

No recommendation

MOVED: Councillor Cranton
SECONDED: Councillor Dowling
MOTION: To return to regular council at 4:10pm.
MOTION CARRIED

The next Regular Council Meeting March 5th, 2018 at 1:30pmin the Inverness Fire Hall.

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

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

WARDEN