

**Regular Council Meeting  
Monday May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
1:30pm  
Council Chambers**

A meeting of Municipal Council was held on Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 1:30pm in council chambers with the following individuals in attendance:

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

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

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES – APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2018**

**MOVED:**       Councillor Cranton

**SECONDED:**   Councillor Mustard

**MOTION:**     That the minutes of the regular council meeting of April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 be approved

**MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES – APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2018**

**MOVED:**       Councillor MacLennan

**SECONDED:**   Councillor Dowling

**MOTION:**     That the minutes of the Audit Committee of April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 be approved

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **BUSINESS ARISING**

Deputy Warden Poirier asked if a meeting had been set with MP's regarding the lack of cell coverage in the north area of the county. The CAO is still coordinating the timing of the meeting as it may be difficult to bring everyone together on the same days. Deputy Warden Poirier thanked Keith for his response.

## **SECOND READING PORT HOOD LAND USE BY LAW- WIND TURBINE HEIGHT**

**MOVED:** Councillor Dowling

**SECONDED:** Councillor Cranton

**MOTION:** That the recommendation to council from the public hearing held at 1pm May 7<sup>th</sup> 2018, regarding the inconsistencies in the Port Hood Land Use By-law be amended so it is consistent with a height limit of six metres for wind turbines of any kind, be approved

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **RAISING THE VILLAGES- Christine Villneff**

A presentation of the declaration that was signed by the municipalities of Inverness, Victoria, Town of Port Hawkesbury, Wagmatcook and Wekoqma'q First Nations in January of 2018 was given to council. Through the Declaration, local leaders have committed to supporting their communities in the collective efforts to become more welcoming for everyone, especially our youngest citizens. Raising the Villages is about coming together for our infants and bringing together our communities around them to support them. The North Star is representative of the infants. By building communities and spaces for infants, we will be meeting the needs of everyone. This will bring an awareness of services and how to access those services which will increase the health of all of society. An economy will be built meeting the needs of our citizens which will be more robust and more attractive to those who may want to live here. Over the last year, Raising the Villages has collected data and hosted community conversations to find out what people in western Cape Breton are looking for therefore the declaration was developed. It is based on four principles: welcoming communities and spaces, coordinating, connecting and communicating; community informed decision making; and reconciliation in action. From our infants to our elders, we can all have a role in strengthening community settings and dedicated spaces that reduce social isolation, increase health and well-being, share, grow and celebrate cultures and truly make each community a place to connect and belong. Work will continue within the Raise the Villages organization. Local coalitions are being established with service providers, not for profit organizations, businesses, elders, youth and elected officials in each community to implement the action principles of the Declaration.

**Proclamation for Gaelic Month** - The Minister of Gaelic Affairs has declared May as Gaelic Month across the province of Nova Scotia. Bernard Cameron of Mabou read the proclamation in Gaelic and Warden MacQuarrie then read it in English. The proclamation was then signed by both the Warden and Bernard Cameron (attached)

## **NOVA SCOTIA POWER- PAUL CASEY, TREVOR BEATON AND MELISSA FOSHAY**

**PERFORMANCE STANDARDS OVERVIEW** – January 1, 2017 was the start of performance standards implemented by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board. These standards are in three different areas which mean they have to be met or a penalty may be issued. The first area is customer service consists of answering 70% of all calls within 30 seconds, all outages are posted to outage map and no more than 2% of customers billed based on estimation. Secondly, are new service connection times such as new poles, transformers, temporary services, power line extensions less than ten poles or connections more than ten poles. It is all dependent on what the customer requires. The range of time can be within 2 and 31 days for service connection. Thirdly, is that call during storms calls will be answered 85% of the time within 45 seconds, disconnect no more than 10% of callers on hold per year and notify the public within 4 hours of a decision to open the emergency operations centre. Also during storms, provide updates on restoration time for outages as soon as they are known and the percentage of customers restored within 48 hours of first outage. Power reliability applies to all NSP customers on the system in terms of outage frequency which means the average outages a customer has in a year as well as how long the outage lasts. This also includes the circuits which ensure no circuit reliability is lower than a defined threshold. The problem circuits are always being monitored.

**Vegetation Management** program consists of 26,500 kms of distribution line in the province. Distribution lines are classified span by span. A span is considered from one pole to the next pole. Historically the vegetation work has been tree trimming, as opposed to, widening which is now being carried out which means that instead of a 10 foot right of way on roads it would be 20 into private property with permission. Trees are trimmed by a contractor at the top and then a contractor comes to actually cut down trees. The budget for this year is \$6 million and next year there is \$11 million or more. This is not done in all areas as some places do not want the trees cut down, some can only be trimmed off at the top and some will not grow to a height that will interfere with powerlines. In Inverness County in 2017, there has been 70 kms of tree trimming at a cost of \$800,000 and in 2018 another 35 kms will be completed costing \$595,000. This work is being carried out because trees falling on powerlines cause the highest percentage of outages.

**Smart Meters** has been applied for through the NS Utility and Review Board for approval to install smart meters in customer's homes and business as well as the infrastructure for the project which is scheduled to roll out in the end of 2019 at the earliest. These meters will have the capability to check power consumption every 15 minutes, to a collector and then to report it back to NSP. This will be done over a secure private network built as part of the project. This project will be beneficial for outage information because NSP will know when a customer loses power whereas before they had to wait for customers to call in if they lost power. They will then be able to dispatch a crew to assess the situation. This project will also help to eliminate estimated bills which will mean no surprises for customers because bills will be accurate. Smart meters will save \$38 billion in operational costs over a 20 year period which will help to keep

rates stable. Customers will also be able to monitor their bills from online portals. NSP is working with staff to train them in other aspects of the company to give them other opportunities for employment within so jobs will not be lost in the transition.

**STRAIT OF CANSO UPDATE – JEFF STANLEY** – In December 2016, the strait area mayors and wardens passed a motion to pursue port development in an industry led process. This changed the conversation from governance to business development, and was a catalyst to begin collaborative discussions. In April 2017, an initial gathering of industry stakeholders gathered to establish an ongoing forum for stakeholders to advance development in the Strait of Canso, and to identify opportunities for growth. In the Summer of 2017, the input provided by industry stakeholders in April, and additional research sources, was used by local development partners to create a framework to advance economic development priorities. On Nov 7, 2017, almost 30 industry and development leaders gathered to review the framework and a new collaborative approach to economic development along the Strait of Canso. The working group meets weekly and has taken direction from industry and advances the framework. The framework is based on the logic model of goals and objectives. Six goals and 25 objectives were identified within a 5 km economic zone. Then 70% of the stakeholders supported the goals, 85% of the stakeholders support the objectives and 88% support the direction that was proposed. Timelines are being worked on now. The Cape Breton Regional Enterprise Network, Eastern Strait Regional Enterprises Network and Strait Area Chamber of Commerce have bought into the development and have staff dedicated to this effort. Stakeholders were just updated in February by the working group of the progress being made. Municipal units can help by supporting a focus on industry led Port or Strait of Canso opportunities and also support the Regional Enterprise Networks work on this important role. Council will continue to be updated.

#### **TAX WRITE OFFS**

**MOVED:** Deputy Warden Poirier

**SECONDED:** Councillor Dowling

**MOTION:** That recommendation by the director of finance to write off the amount of \$2089.05 plus interest on account 04007514 Conseil Economique De Cheticamp be approved and this property be placed on the charitable exemption list for the 2018/19 fiscal year

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

**MOVED:** Councillor Dowling

**SECONDED:** Councillor MacLennan

**MOTION:** That the recommendation by the director of finance to write off the taxes in the total amount of \$5429.29 plus interest for property owned by Department of Natural Resources for the following accounts: 00223026, 02225689, 02855224, 02887797, 03453049, 10151041, 10151058, 10151066, 10481384, 10499097, 10601444, 10628016, 10582318 and 10629764, be approved

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

**MOVED:** Councillor Mustard

**SECONDED:** Councillor Cranton

**MOTION:** That the recommendation by the director of finance to write off duplicate or inactive tax accounts in the amount of \$20,144 including interest, be approved

**MOTION CARRIED**

Account	Owner	Principal	Interest	Total	District	Reason
05282039	MACDONALD THOMAS	1,936.43	1,389.60	3,326.03	6	Removed from assessment roll
09081186	BEATON ANDREA DAWN	1,931.69	449.50	2,381.19	6	Removed from assessment roll
01836129	HACHE THOMAS	701.95	782.96	1,484.91	2	Removed from assessment roll
02852306	MACINNIS FRANK AND SHELLEY	1,009.62	377.60	1,387.22	4	Duplicate account
05274621	SPRAY ARTHUR JOSEPH	486.30	829.53	1,315.83	5	Inactive account
00150479	AUCOIN EDMOND R ET UX	255.50	844.06	1,099.56	1	Inactive account
07957467	DEVEAU LOUIS	268.32	709.20	977.52	1	Removed from assessment roll
07142447	ORANGEDALE WATER	577.20	98.26	675.46	4	Inactive account
07202180	FRASER DONNA	365.12	177.90	543.02	6	Mobile relocated
07152345	ATKINS STEVEN	358.40	78.30	436.70	2	Removed from assessment roll
07952147	BANK OF MONTREAL	341.35	78.43	419.78	6	Mobile relocated
05386276	MACEACHERN BLANCHE	246.40	41.90	288.30	6	Mobile relocated
2913496	WILLIAM CHEDIAC	271.04	110.23	381.27	3	Removed from roll in 2015
10300770	NICOLE & TROY STEWART	1199.52	584.01	1783.53	2	Account created in error
10300797	NICOLE & TROY STEWART	1159.74	563.82	1723.56	2	Account created in error
10300789	NICOLE & TROY STEWART	1159.74	563.82	1723.56	2	Account created in error
10619203	MACCUISH JOHN JAMES	168.00	28.56	196.56	6	Removed from assessment roll
		12,436.32	7,707.68	20,144.00		

**ROAD NAME CHANGE**

**MOVED:** Councillor Dowling

**SECONDED:** Deputy Warden Poirier

**MOTION:** That the road name change of Inverside Lane in District 3, be approved

**MOTION CARRIED**

**SPRING CLEANUP WEEK**

**MOVED:** Deputy Warden Poirier

**SECONDED:** Councillor MacLennan

**MOTION:** As per the recommendation of the public works department that the week of May 14<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> will be the heavy garbage cleanup in the county and that advertising, as well as, restrictions will be published in the local papers and on the municipal Facebook page.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### CAO

This is the CAO's third council meeting. Numerous issues arise from meetings which are being dealt with daily. The CAO is working to ensure council has meeting material in a timely fashion, staff have been working on budget preparation and there will be two more meetings with council to finalize the budget. Attended a range of meetings and delegated others to staff.

### Tax/Finance

The auditors from Grant Thornton have been to the office and statements are expected by month end. The next tax sale has been scheduled for July 6<sup>th</sup> with approximately 48 properties. A public meeting will be held in Judique regarding the billing of the new reservoir. There will soon be final numbers for Mabou sewer treatment plant and another public meeting will be held. Preparation is ongoing to tax bills for this year.

### Public Works

A number of potential water wells have been identified in Inverness, but more testing has to take place. There has not been any conversation with DOT to partner on patching for cuts to pavement.

### Recreation/Tourism

Councillor Mustard asked if the application Coralee Cameron, Lake Ainslie Development Association, submitted had gone to the province regarding the Egypt Falls project. Donna responded with yes it had been sent off. There has been no further movement on the signage at the Canso Causeway, but follow will be undertaken. There are still seats left for the board governance session on Friday May 11<sup>th</sup>. Additional part II of the training will be provided on Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup> for the group from Friday and others who had already taken the training at a previous session. The part II training will be made available in the fall for those unable to attend on the Saturday. It is two parts and another part II will take place in the fall.

## CORRESPONDENCE

**Housing Nova Scotia** letter was received (attached) and its business plan for 2018/19 with a copy available in the CAO office. Council would like to meet with Dan MacDougall and have the municipal housing coordinator involved as well.

**Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia** (attached) Council would like to meet with the executive director to discuss the demand in Inverness County

**Literacy Nova Scotia** (attached) this will be sent to the Audit Committee for review

The Warden will respond to Tim Gilfoy regarding the Strait Superport meeting on May 30th

## **SAFETY WEEK 2018**

Councillor MacLennan read the proclamation as follows:

This important event marks the beginning of a week committed to raising awareness of the importance of preventing injury and illness in the workplace, at home and in the community. Each year, organizations all across the continent celebrate North American Occupational Safety and Health Week. This year the events take place from May 7<sup>th</sup> to May 11<sup>th</sup>.

The OHS committee is very pleased to have representatives from the Worker's Compensation Board, Department of Labor and Advance Education, Vehicle Compliance and Inverness County's own Dr. Glenna Calder, ND, along with yoga instructor Anne Levesque, presenting to our staff. It is our goal to assist in team building and improved communication between employees, safety committees, director and council. Our hope as a committee is to foster a safety-minded culture with an increase in collaboration from all levels. We believe that with everyone on board we will be able to increase understanding of the importance of occupational safety and health.

**THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Municipality of the County of Inverness will recognize North American Occupational Safety and Health Week from May 7<sup>th</sup> to May 11<sup>th</sup> 2018

Warden MacQuarrie signed the proclamation

### **"In Camera"**

Moved: Deputy Warden Poirier  
Seconded: Councillor Dowling  
Motion: That council move to "In Camera" at 3:15pm  
Carried

Moved: Councillor Mustard  
Seconded: Deputy Warden Poirier  
Motion: To move back to regular council at 3:58pm  
Carried

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM "IN CAMERA"**

Cape Mabou Pasture request will be sent to the next Audit Committee meeting for consideration.

**MOVED:** Councillor Dowling  
**SECONDED:** Deputy Warden Poirier  
**MOTION:** That the inter municipal agreement with Eastern District Planning Commission be approved to include Town of Antigonish

Staff will compile more information into the piece of property in Port Hastings near the sewer treatment facility that the Town of Port Hawkesbury wishes to sell because it is owned jointly.

The next regular council meeting is planned for June 4th, 2018 at 1:30pm in Port Hood

**CONSENSUS WAS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 4:05PM**

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CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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WARDEN