

Committee of the Whole Meeting
Thursday September 20th, 2018
9am
Council Chambers

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

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

Warden MacQuarrie called the meeting to order at 9:06am

STRAIT RICHMOND HOSPITAL FOUNDATION – Staff will gather more information on the number of visitations by Inverness County Residents at the Strait Richmond Hospital and update council when this data becomes available.

AIR BNB - Staff Report Attached

PUBLIC WORKS CAPITAL BUDGET ITEMS – Recommendation that the attached list of capital items requested by the Director of Public Works be approved on October 4th at regular council.

MABOU WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT – This project is now complete and a community meeting will be held to update the community on costs.

JUDIQUÉ WATER PROJECT UPDATE – This project is still waiting on power lines to be installed. The original scoped placement of poles did not work for staff to plow the road in the winter months so another plan is being developed.

NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL – discussion highlights attached

CHETICAMP WATER ISSUE – Adrien Poirier – The Cheticamp Fire Department is not monitoring the use of its vehicles and the equipment is not being used for its intended use. The vehicles are being used for personal water issues, such as filling pools and wells, within the community. This will be brought to the Inverness County Firefighters Association meeting in October and Keith has spoken to the fire chief in Cheticamp asking that no municipal water be used for anything other than fires emergency services. A formal letter will be sent to the department requesting that the insurance policy of the department be reviewed.

DEED TRANSFER TAX ANALYSIS – attached

Lunch 12:25pm

Resumed at 12:44pm

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – Grant Thornton Auditors - Kim Livingston, Ryan Armstrong and Rob Whadden – Recommendation that the financial report go to the next regular council meeting for approval, with the amendments.

CABOT TRAIL WRITER’S FESTIVAL – Presentation Attached

EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY – More information will be available at the October Committee of the Whole Meeting.

CAPE MABOU COMMUNITY PASTURE – No board members were available to present. A request will be sent to the board to present the next Regular Council meeting.

CROSSWALKS – Drawings have to be submitted to NSDOTIR for approval. The process is to submit requests to NSDOTIR and then Bernie Murphy, District Traffic Supervisor, is sent out to check the area out for approval. One crucial factor is that there must be refuge on the other side. A budget must be developed for this process as well.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON ORGANIZATIONS – Report attached. New organizations can be added to the list through council approval.

EDPC PLANNED DEVELOPMENTS – Councillors would like a report on planned developments in their districts from the EDPC.

CORRESPONDENCE – Jim St. Clair – The CAO and Warden will respond to this letter regarding the Sunset Guide
NSFM Initiatives – Attached- the Warden will attend the session on resolutions in Port Hawkesbury in Oct 1

“IN CAMERA” at 3:20pm

Regular Council resumed at 3:42pm

No Recommendations from **“In Camera”**

Consensus to adjourn at 3:43pm

Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal

Steve MacDonald, Roy MacDonald and Darren Blundon

The department is still working on the list of J-Roads within the county and will distribute when available.

Steve MacDonald - RIM the locale road improvement program is near completion, asphalt patching is being done internally because of the cost of asphalt has increased so much. The areas patched include Cheticamp, Margaree and Lake Ainslie. Gravel road capital program -Alva Construction was successful bidder for gravel road maintenance, which will be completed this year and will start very soon. This graveling and ditching is in the Skye Glen area, Brookvillage into the Meagher Rd and Deepdale. Job postings are out and winter equipment is being brought in to be ready for winter season. Mabou Harbour Road is being paved with the contract to SW Weeks.

Darren Blundon- Hwy 19 is moving along in Port Hood on schedule. The bike lanes are being put in with that project. Signage as a part of the Blue Route project will be placed as well. The Captain Gillis Bridge is being worked on with a bailey bridge being installed. This will take about 6-8 weeks to have installed. NSDOTIR are doing this work. Cenotaph Rd is being worked on now. Reservation Road paving project is going to be started soon which include paved shoulders. Brush cutting on Hwy 105 is ongoing. Whycocomagh Port Hood Rd gravelling has been awarded to Alva Construction. Welcome signs are ready at the sign shop in Truro. The Causeway sign will be put up first and then the one on the county line on the Hwy 105 will be done after that. RIM work all done in Mabou, brush cutting is outstanding, Hwy 252 is partially done on the south side and the north side should be completed before winter. Councillor Dowling had a request from a resident on Campbell's Rd in Judique for brush cutting and another resident asked for a yield sign on the Militia Point Rd where there is currently a stop sign installed. This request cannot be put in place. Currently signs are being overlaid with a new image along the Cabot Trail in coordination with the Cabot Trail Façade program.

Roy MacDonald – He has replaced Gerard Jessome and has been in the role for about 2 weeks. Most of the two weeks was spent on the road gaining knowledge of current issues. We need council's input and priorities are set and it all comes down to funding. As much as can be is fixed with funding and some things get deferred. Directors deal with all the capital funding not management level.

Councillor Mustard – Chip sealing who does that evaluation? Roy MacDonald responded that 100 series highways is done by ARAN vehicle into the pavement management system, political input and area managers also have input. There are different pots of funding for many categories. Darren and Steve prioritize locally. Maintenance includes, line painting, brush cutting, patching, etc. which are the must do items. Biggest challenge is equipment and that comes out of maintenance budgets which makes things difficult to prioritize.

Deputy Warden Poirier – In my opinion, the Inverness base of TIR is not responding to some of the issues in District 1 which he considers to be priorities or safety concerns. He is making the calls to the call centre and he feels that his name is being tarnished because no changes take place when he does call.

Steve MacDonald – The majority of the RIM funding is being carried out in the Cheticamp area. Sometimes independent contractors do work without permits which cause issues for the NSDOTIR. Public relations on the front line could be improved for sure.

Roy MacDonald – Maintenance crews are very small and many kilometers of road to maintain. There is only 1 supervisor, but there soon will be another one. They will be assigned different areas.

Councillor Cranton – Big Intervale was graded twice early in the year and the residents are very pleased about this occurrence. The Marsh Brook Rd was graded the day after the request was made to the call centre. Brush cutting will take place on Hwy 219, 2 bridges will be replaced. There is a hole between the senior's home and the Coop in Grant Etang, there is a big hole that needs to be addressed. This will be addressed when more asphalt is being done in the area.

Steve MacDonald – There is a huge cost to asphalt because of the distance to asphalt plants, so it takes a long time to get patching done. The request to change the middle portion of the West Big Intervale Rd to be renamed has to be looked at again. Councillor Cranton will poll residents again because of the concerns with 911 addressing.

Councillor Dowling – What is Roy doing to advocate for more funding for this part of the province? Gerard Jessome, who was in the role before Roy, advocated as best he could and this area is different. MLA's can be contacted as well to get the most that we can possibly get here in Cape Breton. Roy's position reports to the Peter Hackett who is chief engineer for the province.

Steve MacDonald - The department is always fighting for more because the budget is divided the same way across the province for everyone. The cost of salt is more here than most places because of trucking costs. Over 50% of the budget is for winter.

Warden MacQuarrie – The Canso Causeway is not located in Inverness County but Darren's budget is still responsible for it.

Councillor MacLennan – Owen McCarron, Warden of Antigonish County, couldn't get a meeting with the Minister of Transportation, so it must be difficult for the area managers to do their job. Politics does play a big part in lobbying for road work and the transportation budget is fourth in the list of budget departmental size.

Darren Blundon – It is important to hear from councillors and to have the MLA's rallying for issues at the provincial level. The most issues are here in rural Cape Breton. Sometimes residents don't understand that because of budget constraints some issues can't be addressed.

Deputy Warden Poirier – It was brought up that GPS issues where people are directed wrong and that the shortest route is not always the best route. The department has addressed these issues in the past and try to assist in any going forward.

Keith MacDonald – There is proposal that must be completed for Bernie Murphy, District Traffic Supervisor and Steve is willing to work with the county to get the proposal completed. This would be for portable signage for the whole county.

Councillor Mustard – Infrastructure in the ground needs to be addressed before road maintenance work can be done in Inverness. It is based on a year to year assessment by the Department. Steve has requested that 1 km of paving on Inverness streets be done. Steve asked Councillor Mustard for a priority list that he would like to see done. The list of J class roads need to be compared. No patching done on Hwy 19 in the community of Inverness. The speed limit signs were done. Hwy 19 south of Inverness is on the paving list from Blackstone Rd to Strathlorne and is slated for 2020, but could be moved up on the list. Broad Cove Marsh Rd from the St. Margaret's of Scotland Church will be added to the list of repairs.

Steve MacDonald – There are 125 tonnes of asphalt for paving in Cheticamp and Cheticamp Back Rd that will be done also.

Warden MacQuarrie – The gravelling of shoulders on the new paving in Harbourview will be completed when the asphalt is completed. Dunmore Rd has been ditched, gravelled and graded on a small section. The NE Mabou Rd has beaver issues and DNR rely on NSDOTIR for those issues. A trapper has to be hired and the blockage has to be removed in coordination with NSE. There is a process to follow and the bridge could possibly be closely maintained. No parking signs will be addressed by Bernie Murphy, District Traffic Supervisor, as he is re-evaluating. There was a higher expense for dust control this year, but all the numbers are not in.

Darren Blundon– Asked if cuts in the asphalt, done by the municipality, will be addressed before the winter? Normally a permit should be submitted which helps the department follow those. Steve thought that there may be a blanket permit, this could possibly be signed by the Municipality to assume responsibility of all cuts and have them repaired in a timely manner, but Steve will confirm this. It's a good idea that NSDOTIR know where the work is being done. Darren will send along this permit.

Steve MacDonald– There is a new salt truck for the county this winter. It will be based in Inverness.