

Special Council Meeting
Municipal Council Chambers
Friday June 22nd 2018
9am

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

Staff: Keith MacDonald, CAO
Donna MacDonald, Director Recreation/Tourism/Culture
Tanya Tibbo, Director Taxation/Finance
Garett Beaton, Director Public Works
Maurice Boudreau, Municipal Solicitor
Ellen Murphy, Administrative Assistant

Warden MacQuarrie called the meeting to order at 10:05am

The Warden read the following statement: Council, CAO, staff, legal counsel, media and supporters of Inverness County, on November 7, 2016 I was elected Warden by council. From that time until present day I have put in many hours of Council meetings, committee meetings, and meetings with the district councillor and constituents all in an effort to keep our Municipality well served and moving forward. This meeting was requested by four of my fellow councillors to review my performance as Warden. Until I received an email on Friday June 15th I was unaware of any dissatisfaction with my leadership. Council had not brought any such issues forward. If change is desired, appropriate communication could have taken place. There is no just cause for this premature review. Review of the Warden and Deputy Warden will occur at the two year mark in November. Why now and what's the rush? Are there not more important things to be dealt with? Are you thinking of how this will affect our Municipality? I would hope that our Council would be willing to work together as a team and support our Municipal bylaw.

Councillor Cranton asked if emails from residents could be read now, but was advised that only a summary can be given of all the emails.

Councillor Dowling indicated this was a vote of non-confidence based on merit and not anything personal against the Warden. He voted her in as Warden eighteen months ago. The organizational review indicated that issues with council needed to be addressed but because they have not been, this council is divided and frustrated with the Warden. The Warden is not following Robert's Rule of Order, meetings do not start on time, councillors are not given equal amounts of time to talk, cellphones are ringing during meetings. The Warden didn't let the Deputy Warden chair a meeting while she was on the phone because she was not able to attend

in person due to surgery she had. She has let the former CAO argue with councillors, has not informed council of the happenings of the West Mabou Beach with regard to a potential golf course, personal interests are coming ahead of the council. She let presenters be harassed by audience members and, she forgets the county exists past Port Hood. The airport documentation showing the funding agreement, former CAO sat with Council at a recent meeting and the Warden herself then went and sat in the gallery instead of chairing a meeting. The Judique water boil order she was quoted as saying she didn't know what the problem was in Judique. She did not reach out to him to try to discuss any issues before the meeting today.

The Warden did interject in the council meeting that Angie MacEachern of Inverness County Home Support was questioned openly by an audience member. Judique water was dealt with residents through email and she attended the public meeting. She did not meet with Rodney MacDonald and Ben Cowan Dewar together at any time, but she did meet with each one on separate occasions. There was an open meeting with Rodney MacDonald and other business partners to discuss a potential golf course in West Mabou. The organizational review is being implemented, with new positions being advertised now, the way meetings are run is changing and other issues in the review will be addressed. There were plenty of meetings with regard to budget and those budget discussions did not include any funding for the Allan J MacEachern Airport. The rivalry between the Municipality and the Town of Port Hawkesbury is non-existent. She does her best to run the meetings and give councillors ample time to speak, but it is not always easy to run the meetings.

Councillor Dowling was referring to page 44 of the organizational review, council agendas and time estimates could be better adhere to and adhering to "Robert's Rule of Order".

Councillor MacLennan stated that Warden MacQuarrie did not reach out to him after the email of June 15th went out and that she just contacted the media and sent out emails to rally support and that showed a great lack of respect on her part. The expansion of the Margaree Airport was going to cost the taxpayers \$3,000,000. Council voted against the expansion of the Margaree Airport and he believes the Warden is holding a grudge because of that vote. The extension of the sewer to Broad Cove was done for Cabot Links. He said that when he brought this up he was told he was "out of order". He also stated that Warden MacQuarrie said she was not in favour of protecting the West Mabou Beach and was in favour of another golf course. He asked the Warden if she met with Rodney MacDonald and Ben Cowan Dewar on separate occasions.

Warden MacQuarrie responded by saying that she did meet with Ben Cowan Dewar on two separate occasions and that information was passed on to council in an email after the first meeting and then after the second meeting she shared the update verbally with council. The Warden stated that when a vote is taken by council, you stand by it unless it is rescinded and she was disappointed that she was not able to attend that meeting in person. Things that are in the past need to stay there and it's difficult to move forward if things are still being drug up.

Deputy Warden Poirier is not here to argue with anyone. The issue was the airport and he was the only one who voted against the expansion even when former CAO, Joe O'Connor and former

Warden Duart MacAulay were in place. Warden MacQuarrie has divided the council because of that. It took about 20 years to transfer the Cheticamp Water to the Municipality. When the July 2017 regular council meeting was held, Alfred thought he was disrespected by not chairing the meeting since the Warden was in attendance by phone. One recommendation he wants considered is the addition of more bilingual staff. The housing coordinator having an office in St. Joseph du Moine was an example of reaching out to the bilingual community.

Warden MacQuarrie does not speak French, but does agree that there should be more bilingual staff to communicate better with residents in District 1.

Councillor Cranton tries to work with everyone and is not working solely with the Warden in any way. This is the first that he was aware that there were issues with the Warden in her lack of leadership. Had he been aware, he would have asked that the issue come to the council table to be addressed. The method that was used is legal but he thought it would be used if there were fraud or stealing involved in the Warden's actions. He is sick of discussion on the Margaree Airport, the previous council was interested in expanding it but this council voted against that decision. There still is a committee working to make this airport viable for the small plane that wants to land there. At a meeting of the Homes Board last year, Deputy Warden Poirier told

Councillor Cranton he had a meeting with regarding his business. Councillor Cranton found out that a meeting was held regarding the Margaree Airport with other members of Council. Councillor Cranton chalked it up to a one time mistake, he still gets along with the operator of the Allan J MacEachern Airport. Roger Momberquette, a member of the Margaree Airport Committee, asked that Councillor Cranton express on his behalf his support for the Warden. The new CAO is doing a great job, as well as, a budget that is in the black, new staff being hired, no increase in taxes since a number of years, etc. Part of the Francophone community is in his district and he is setting up an office to be closer to them. He works with this Francophone community on a regular basis. He feels that the Warden and Council is supportive of the Francophone community and is not sure why the Deputy Warden refers to the lack of support by Warden and Council.

Councillor Mustard has been on council for 8 years and is proud of the work that has been done. He has been at times frustrated, threatened, disappointed and challenged with the work that has been done especially having 3 CAO's in the last 8 months. He wants to see council and the Warden work together and work with staff. Welcome everyone on all levels and that the Warden and Council support the district priorities to develop what everyone needs and deserves and also see an infrastructure assessment is done, that attainable housing is reached, agricultural land use bylaw and Raising the Villages welcoming to everyone. It is all council's jobs not just the Warden's job, but the Warden should direct that and hold a neutral position. As council it is our job to make the Warden aware if they are frustrated. He did sign a document of non-confidence to remove the Warden. He is pledging to work with the CAO, Warden and council to define the roles and responsibilities of everyone with a code of conduct that ensures no matter who is the Warden we will have the shared understanding of what we need to practice so that we can move forward. I have learned my lesson since last Friday and agree to support the function of

this council as it is now until November and commit the time and effort it will take to make council better.

Deputy Warden Poirier stated that District 1 is very happy and proud to be a part of Inverness County. There was not a time that he was not treated well here but he just wants to see more bilingual staff.

Warden MacQuarrie hopes that Councillor Mustard was not ever threatened by her. She is willing to work together to deal with frustrations. She asked for a motion to review the Warden's position in November, but she was advised that a motion was not required.

Councillor Dowling said that it is unfortunate it had to come to this. Take the time to listen to fellow Councillors and work on issues. It is the Allan J MacEachen Airport. There is nothing in the MGA that suggests why council could have the Warden removed. It is very vague. He did reach out to the Warden because he felt he should and she did not try to reach him.

Warden MacQuarrie replied by saying that she was contacted to resign and she reacted by and that's why she chose to inform the public about what was going on. She is willing to work together.

Councillor Cranton wants to see any issues put on the table instead of the method that was used last week. They need to work as a team.

Deputy Warden Poirier agrees with Councillor Cranton. We had a special meeting in Inverness and he would do it again if he thinks all information is not coming through to council.

Warden MacQuarrie stated that all meetings should be open and not held with only certain council members present because that only divides council.

Maurice Boudreau explained that a motion is not necessary for review of the Warden's position. Warden MacQuarrie thanked everyone and looks forward to working together and a review in November.

Councillor MacLennan asked about the letter of non-confidence sent to the Warden, to which Councillor Dowling responded that the letter "never existed". Councillor MacLennan said once again that the Warden should not have arranged for the media and supporters to attend this meeting. Instead she should have contacted council and discussed the issues with them first and he supports the council decision to wait until November for review.

Moved: Councillor Cranton

Seconded: Councillor Dowling

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 10:17am

Motion Carried