

Committee of the Whole Meeting
Thursday, February 20th, 2020
10:00 am
Council Chambers

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

Regrets: Warden Betty Ann MacQuarrie

Staff: Keith MacDonald, CAO
Tanya Tibbo, Director of Finance
Dave Coulombe, Director of Infrastructure and Emergency Services
Trudy Gillis, Manager of Environmental and Facility Compliance
Debbie Nicholson, Municipal Council Administrative Assistant
Melanie Beaton, Special Projects Facilitator
Karolyn Aucoin, Communications and Community Engagement Specialist

Due to Warden MacQuarrie's absence, Deputy Warden Poirier chaired the meeting. Deputy Warden Poirier called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and welcomed all in attendance.

PRESENTATIONS

Clean Energy: Katie Giles, Senior Lead, Clean Energy Initiatives

The Clean Energy Financing Program is a program that helps a municipality provide low interest financing to qualifying homeowners interested in undertaking clean energy upgrades. Once the upgrades are completed, the homeowner repays the municipality over time on their property tax bill – which is why these types of programs are often referred to as Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing. Interested homeowners must register to participate in the Clean Energy Financing Program. After verifying that their property qualifies, the homeowner will enter into an agreement with the municipality to complete eligible clean energy upgrades. The municipality would then impose a Local Improvement Charge on the property equal to the cost of the upgrades, plus lender rate, and program fees.

Parks Canada: Rob Howey, Acting Superintendent, Cape Breton Highlands National Park

Mr. Howey presented to Council the upcoming management planning process for Cape Breton Highlands National Park. The exercise will help to map out the direction for Park management for the next 10 years. He outlined the Park's mandate and priorities. Feedback will be collected through information sessions and online engagement. A draft management plan will be available in April 2020.

L'Acabie: Marielle Bourgeois

L'Acabie is a community based, non-profit transportation cooperative founded in 2010 that provides transportation services to the Northern Inverness County area. Clients with medical appointments as far away as Halifax can use this service. Ms. Bourgeois outlined ridership and travel statistics growth for the last four years. L'Acabie is asking that Municipal funding to the cooperative be increased to \$70,000.

Whycocomagh Development Association: Lisa Nearing, Heather Austin-Coulombe

Lisa Nearing and Heather Austin-Coulombe presented a petition to Council highlighting the desire for the construction of a sidewalk connecting the communities of Whycocomagh and We'koqma'q First Nation. With the proposed rotary being constructed in Whycocomagh, citizens encourage the Municipality to work with NS Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal to pursue the creation of this sidewalk.

Whycocomagh Waterfront Centre Association: Craig Gillis and Terry Gillis

Craig Gillis and Terry Gillis presented to Council on behalf of the Whycocomagh Waterfront Centre Association. The Waterfront Centre shares many of the social and cultural priorities outlined by the Municipality. The importance of the Centre is as an essential and sustainable means to achieve and maintain social and cultural experiences for the surrounding communities and for visiting tourists. The Centre is requesting that Council provide recognition as one of Inverness County's Cultural Centres, allowing for a similar financial contribution as the other Cultural Centres located in the Municipality.

MUNICIPAL ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

Narrative Research is conducting consultations on behalf of the Government of Nova Scotia. Narrative Research is seeking input on the development of accessibility standards for the Built Environment and Education. Councillor Cranton provided access to documents that can assist in the development of an accessibility plan. A series of five discussions will be held across the province to share and seek feedback. An accessibility plan for the Municipality will be developed in the near future.

ATV BY-LAW

An ATV rally in Cheticamp in September 2019 saw over 300 all-terrain vehicles come to the area. There appeared to have been some confusion surrounding where these vehicles were and were not allowed to travel, resulting in some disappointed participants. Corporal Yannick Gagnon from the Cheticamp RCMP detachment has been invited to speak at the next Police Advisory Committee meeting and discuss the rally that occurred in Cheticamp.

SPECIAL PROJECTS UPDATE: Inverness Growth Strategy

A Request for Proposals for the Growth Management Strategy for the Community of Inverness was recently made public, and closed on February 6th, 2020. The intent of this strategy is to identify key strategic infrastructure and land use planning initiatives that must first be put in place to create a platform that encourages continued investment and supports inclusive and

sustainable growth and development. The successfully bid was provided by Upland Planning and Design, in partnership with Turner Drake and CBCL.

INTEREST WRITE-OFF: JUDIQUE RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Recommendation to Council that the interest in the amount of \$3,180.74 be written off for Assessment Account Number 02287781, assessed to Judique Recreation Association.

DUPLICATE ACCOUNT, REQUEST FOR WRITE OFF: M MORRIS

The following Assessment Accounts were created in duplicate for the 2018-2019 taxation year: 10757177, 10757185, 10757193. Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) assessed these accounts. Mrs. Morris requested that the 2018-2019 tax billing be reversed from the above accounts.

Recommendation to Council that the billing not be amended for the 2018-2019 taxation year for the above listed billings.

YEAR TO DATE: WATER CAPITAL EXPENSES

JUDIQUE WATER SYSTEM UPGRADES

Improvements to the Judique Water System were funded by the remaining \$250,000.00 received from the Province of Nova Scotia for the transfer of the Cheticamp Water Utility. Details are seen below.

	<i>Total Amount from Provincial Transfer per Cheticamp Water Utility</i>	27,880.37
2019-08-13	Lynk Electric Ltd Jud WTP Upgrades	(9,704.07)
2019-10-07	Strum Consulting Judique Dam	(247.68)
2020-02-06	Exp Services Inc Judique Water Supply Investigation	(1,506.15)
2019-06-12	Lynk Electric Ltd Judique WTP	(1,814.58)
2019-10-22	Omnitech Inc Judique WTP Flow Meter	(4,013.97)
2019-10-22	Hilltop Electric and Plumbing Judique WTP Lighting Heater	<u>(3,975.05)</u>
	Remaining Balance	<u>6,618.87</u>

Council recommended that the remaining costs be funded from the \$6,618.87 (amount remaining from the Province for the Cheticamp Utility) and the Gas Tax Fund. Once quotes are received, Staff will provide Council with an update.

In order to be in compliance with operating approvals with Nova Scotia Environment, the Water Utility must upgrade several pieces of equipment. The work below has been completed to date, and will require approval to fund through the Gas Tax Fund.

Compliance Requirements

2019-08-13 Lynk Electric Ltd	Mabou Scada	26,436.50
2019-11-20 Atlantic Purification Systems	Turbidity Meters - Compliance	<u>14,809.97</u>
		<u>41,246.47</u>

Council recommended that the capital items purchased to remain in compliance with Nova Scotia Environment, totalling \$41,246.47, be funded through the Gas Tax Fund.

CHANGE REQUEST – 2019-2020 CAPITAL BUDGET

Upon review of the operations of Infrastructure and Emergency Services (IES), it has been determined that there are previously approved capital assets that require amendment to improve the efficiencies of the operation of the Department. Both change requests will provide a savings to the Municipality.

Recommendation of Council to purchase a Cube Van at a cost of \$39,330 in lieu of the budgeted 1 Tonne Service Vehicle with Dump Box, Spreader and Plow at a cost of \$95,000.

Recommendation of Council to purchase a Custom Trailer at a cost of \$27,600 and a SpaceKap at a cost of \$17,000 in lieu of the budgeted 1 Tonne Quad Cab with Flat Bed & Crane Hoist at a cost of \$140,000.

Water Utility Facility Compliance

The Municipality has received numerous directives from Nova Scotia Environment regarding its Water Utility operations and facilities. The following items are required to be purchased to meet with compliance. The requirements are listed below by Water Treatment Facility:

Cheticamp - \$13,299.44

- New chlorine panel with valving, new chlorine tank (appropriately sized), 2 new chlorine pumps that are appropriately sized and are SCADA-ready, chlorine tubing, flow control valves that are SCADA-ready and labour for the install.

Inverness (Corner) - \$21,961.76

- Chlorine/pH analyzer, chlorine panel, new chlorine tank, chlorine tubing, 2 new chlorine pumps that are appropriately sized and are SCADA-ready, flow control valves that are SCADA-ready and labour for the install.

Inverness (Strathlorne) - \$10,601.33

- Chlorine panel, new chlorine tank, chlorine tubing, 1 new chlorine pump that are appropriately sized and are SCADA-ready, flow control valves that are SCADA-ready and labour for the install.

Mabou - \$25,299.11

- Chlorine/pH analyzer (special pH probe as the water has a high conductivity), chlorine panel, new chlorine tank, chlorine tubing, 2 new chlorine pumps that are appropriately sized and are SCADA-ready, flow control valves that are SCADA-ready and labour for the install.

Port Hood (Dunmore) - \$6,414.62

- New chlorine probe, flow control valves that are SCADA-ready and labour for the installs.

Port Hood - \$18,208.325

- Chlorine/pH analyzer, new chlorine tank, chlorine tubing, 2 new chlorine pumps that are appropriately sized and are SCADA-ready, flow control valves that are SCADA-ready and labour for the install.

Whycocomagh - \$17,748.32

- Chlorine/pH analyzer, chlorine tubing, 2 new chlorine pumps that are appropriately sized and SCADA-ready, flow control valves that are SCADA-ready and labour for the install.

Port Hastings Booster - \$13,299.44

- Chlorine panel, new chlorine tank, chlorine tubing, 2 new chlorine pumps that are appropriately sized and are SCADA-ready, flow control valves that are SCADA-ready and labour for the install.

Port Hastings Tower - \$14,000.00

- Chlorine panel, new chlorine tank, chlorine tubing, 2 new chlorine pumps, flow control valve and labour for the install. This is a new item as we lose chlorine residual in the tower and operators are climbing the tank to dump 'chlorine' in. This is a safety issue as well as compliance for when the chlorine drops in the system. A heated enclosure for the whole system is also needed, however this expense is not included in the above price.

There is also additional work to be performed by Lynk Electrical to install some of the equipment required to be in compliance. This work is estimated at \$45,000. Council will be provided specific costs once staff receives quotes.

Recommendation from Council to fund \$172,711.68 from the Gas Tax Reserve Fund in order to comply with Nova Scotia Environment directives. The breakdown per Water Treatment System (less recoverable HST) is as follows:

Cheticamp	12,060.39
Inverness	29,529.12
Mabou	22,942.12
Port Hood	22,328.95
Whycocomagh	16,094.79
Port Hastings	24,756.09
Installation	<u>45,000.00</u>
	\$ 172,711.68

CORRESPONDENCE

NDP Caucus

A request was received from Nova Scotia's NDP Leader Gary Burrill hoping to set up a meeting with Municipal Council.

Council agreed to meet with NDP Leader Gary Burrill, to coincide with another Council meeting.

Strait Regional Centre for Education (SRCE)

The SRCE is looking to partner with the Municipality to grow the International Student Program. Council agrees to support the International Student Program, and encouraged an update of the program at an upcoming Municipal Council meeting.

Women in Politics Initiative

Recommendation to Council to support six individuals to attend the upcoming Leadership School for Women on May 1st and 2nd, in Port Hawkesbury in the amount of \$1500 (6 attendees @ \$250 each).

Lake Ainslie Road Signage

The Lake Ainslie Development Association requests several place name signs be erected. Council agrees to discuss the costs associated with erecting Gaelic name signs during our next meeting with Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

Next Meeting Dates

Regular Monthly Council: March 5th, 2020

Next Committee of the Whole: March 19th, 2020

Special Budget Meeting: February 27th, 2020

Recess: 1:30 pm – 1:40 pm

MOVED: Councillor Mustard

SECONDED: Councillor Dowling

MOTION: That Council move to “in camera” at 1:40 pm.

MOTION CARRIED

MOVED: Councillor Dowling

SECONDED: Councillor Cranton

MOTION: That Council move back to regular council at 2:11 pm.

MOTION CARRIED

MOVED: Councillor Dowling

SECONDED: Councillor Cranton

MOTION: That Council adjourn at 2:11 pm

MOTION CARRIED