

**Committee of the Whole Meeting
Conference Call
Tuesday March 31th, 2020
1:30 pm**

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

Staff: Keith MacDonald, CAO
 Tanya Tibbo, Director of Finance
 Dave Coulombe, Director of Infrastructure and Emergency Services
 Melanie Beaton, Special Projects Coordinator
 Debbie Nicholson, Municipal Council Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Warden MacQuarrie called the meeting to order at 1:45 pm via conference call after attempts to link via video conference failed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: Councillor Dowling
SECONDED: Councillor Mustard
MOTION: That the agenda be approved as presented.
MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATION – MABOU SAILING CLUB

Danny MacDonald, chair of the Mabou Sailing Club presented to Council. The club was initiated in 2012. Over sixty children participate every summer, with demand increasing yearly. A three year expansion is planned for the club, which includes new boats and utilities, oyster harvesting and cottages. The cost for the Year 1 improvements is \$60,000.00. The current request of the municipality is 1/3 of the cost of these improvements, or \$20,000.00.

AUDIT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation to Council that Grant Thornton conduct a historic review of the Municipal Water Utility Operations prior to the Water Meter project commencing in July 2019.

Recommendation to Council that Grant Thornton conduct a detailed historic review of the Municipal Transfer Station Operations, namely increased revenues since June of 2019.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation to Council that interest on property taxes be waived for March, April and May of the current year.

Recommendation to Council that the Water Utility move forward with the quarterly billing, while extending the due date by an additional thirty (30) days.

Recommendation to Council that interest on overdue water utility accounts be waived for March, April and May of the current year.

MONTHLY CAO UPDATE TO COUNCIL

CAO Keith MacDonald presented a monthly CAO update template to Council. This update will be presented during Committee of the Whole meetings going forward. It is a summarization of department projects, milestones, achievements, and challenges that have occurred over the past month.

J CLASS ROADS APPROVALS

Recommendation that Council accept the approved projects under the Cost Shared Program for Paving of Subdivision (J Class) Streets for fiscal year 2020/2021. The cost share estimate for the Municipality is \$482,500.00

COUNCIL CHAMBER REDESIGN

A preliminary plan of the second floor redesign of the Port Hood Municipal Building was presented to Council.

COMMUNITY FUNDING REQUESTS

Inverness County Centre for the Arts – Heating and Cooling Upgrades

Recommendation to Council that this request is approved in the amount of \$10,000.00, with the exact funding source be revisited by Council, once the provincial funding is secured.

Mabou Sailing and Boating Club – Equipment and Infrastructure Upgrades.

\$20,000.00 is the current request of Council

Recommendation to defer any decision on Municipal funding at this time. Council will revisit this request once a business plan has been prepared.

Margaree Salmon Museum – Roofing Replacement

\$8,000.00 is the current request of Council

Recommendation to approve funding in part with \$3,000.00 from District #2's CDG Budget for 2019-2020, \$3,500.00 from District #2's Discretionary Budget for 2019-2020 and to consider

funding the remaining \$1,500.00 from District #2's 2020-2021 CDG Budget (yet to be determined).

EASTERN DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSION (EDPC)

Recommendation to Council to approve the following EDPC appointments effective April 1, 2020:

Building Inspection:

Building Inspector: David MacKenzie and Sean Donovan

Alternates: Harry Martell and Jonathan Martin

Special Constable: Sean Donovan and Jonathan Martin

Assistant Building Inspectors: Amanda Esterbrooks and André Samson

Development Officer: Wanda Ryan

Alternates: John Bain; Andrew Jones; Alex Dunphy and Lewis Pope

Fire Inspector: David MacKenzie

Alternates: A. Samson, A. Esterbrooks, S. Donovan; H. Martell; and J. Martin

Dangerous and Unightly Premises:

Administrator: Jonathan Martin and John Bain

Alternate: Amanda Esterbrooks

Special Constable: Sean Donovan and Jonathan Martin

FEED NOVA SCOTIA

\$1 Million dollars has been made available to Feed Nova Scotia to purchase food and hire additional staff. Municipal staff have reached out to Feed Nova Scotia to determine the manner in which these funds are being distributed.

PORT HASTINGS POST OFFICE

Recommendation to Council that a letter be issued to Canada Post and Public Works and Government Services Canada and copied to MP Mike Kelloway addressing the need for exterior improvements to the Port Hastings Post Office.

ORANGEDALE SENIORS HOME

The Cape Breton Island Housing Authority has stated they would look at the condition of this building. The facility is not expected to be reopened.

Recommendation that a letter be sent to the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority as to the future of this building.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES EXEMPTION LIST

On March 24, 2020 the province of Nova Scotia has provided details on what is deemed an essential service. The social distancing requirements do not apply to the following municipal entities and their contractors: utilities such as water, wastewater and stormwater, maintenance of utilities and municipal facilities and solid waste, garbage and litter collection and disposal.

ALLAN J MACEACHEN AIRPORT

Correspondence was received from Port Hawkesbury Mayor Brenda Chisholm Beaton regarding the creation of a new ownership and governance model for the Allan J MacEachen airport. Consensus to table consideration of this request at this time.

CAPE BRETON FOOD HUB

Since the establishment of the Cape Breton Food Hub, sales have increased, and delivery options for food producers have been put in place.

Recommendation to Council that municipal staff make a request to the Minister of Agriculture for the Cape Breton Food Hub to access funding to hire additional human resources.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Regular Monthly Council: April 9th, 2020 1:30 pm

Recess: 4:30 pm – 4:40 pm

MOVED: Councillor Cranton

SECONDED: Deputy Warden Poirier

MOTION: That Council move to “in camera” at 4:40 pm.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting came out of “in camera at 5:34 pm

MOVED: Councillor Dowling

SECONDED: Deputy Warden Poirier

MOTION: That Council adjourn at 5:34 pm

MOTION CARRIED