

Regular Council Meeting  
Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 1:30 pm  
Video Conference

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

Staff: Keith MacDonald, CAO  
Tanya Tibbo, Director of Finance  
Dave Coulombe, Director of Infrastructure and Emergency Services  
Donna MacDonald, Director of Recreation and Tourism  
Charlotte MacDonald, Recreation Manager  
Debbie Nicholson, Administrative Assistant to Council  
Melanie Beaton, Special Projects Facilitator

Warden MacQuarrie called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm and welcomed all in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOVED:** Councillor Mustard  
**SECONDED:** Deputy Warden Poirier  
**MOTION:** That the agenda be approved as presented.  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOVED:** Councillor Dowling  
**SECONDED:** Councillor Cranton  
**MOTION:** That the regular Council minutes of March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 be approved.  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOVED:** Councillor Cranton  
**SECONDED:** Councillor Dowling  
**MOTION:** That the Committee of the Whole minutes of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 be approved.  
**MOTION CARRIED**

## **MUNICIPAL PANDEMIC RESPONSE UPDATE**

CAO Keith MacDonald updated Council on the efforts currently underway in response to the COVID-19 situation. Led by Donna MacDonald and Charlotte MacDonald, there are a number of items staff are advancing:

- Food Hampers – This initiative supported the Schools Plus Program, which provides food to a number of needy families. A large food order was placed, and with the help of Strait Area Transit and local volunteers, over 130 dry goods food hampers were assembled and distributed.
- Expanded Food Bank initiatives – Funding will be made available for food bank initiatives going forward with cooperation from the United Way. Municipal Fire Departments are interested in assisting with making depots available.
- A vulnerable population database is being developed. This is a means for residents to self identify as an individual in need of assistance.
- Vulnerable Population Support Team – The goal is to see the RCMP, Community Services and others come together and form a collective effort to address community issues.
- Information Kits – These are available to let residents know how to access resources during the pandemic. They are available both online, and in hard copy. Also a help line telephone number is being made available to direct people to the appropriate resource.
- Thirteen neighbor helping neighbor online networks have been established.
- Messaging from Council has been posted online in the form of press releases.

Discussion was held regarding concerns that some residents have with out of province fisheries workers moving into the Municipality and not self-isolating.

Recommendation to staff that a letter be drafted outlining these concerns, to be distributed to Council.

Consensus that the media will not be part of live video conferenced Council meetings going forward.

## **INVERNESS WASTEWATER ASSESSMENT AND PREDESIGN REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

An internal team reviewed all responses to the Request for Proposals. A scoring system was used to grade the six submissions. The committee recommended to the CAO the bid submitted by R.V. Anderson Associates. The recommendation was accepted. April 15<sup>th</sup> is the start date with a duration of five months. The winning bid will be announced publicly very soon. Funding was provided by the Province of Nova Scotia through the PCAP program.

## **MOTIONS**

### **HISTORIC REVIEW OF THE MUNICIPAL WATER UTILITY OPERATIONS**

**MOVED:** Deputy Warden Poirier

**SECONDED:** Councillor Dowling

**MOTION:** That Grant Thornton conduct a historic review of the Municipal Water Utility Operations prior to the Water Meter project commencing in July 2019.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **HISTORIC REVIEW OF THE MUNICIPAL TRANSFER STATION OPERATIONS**

**MOVED:** Councillor Dowling

**SECONDED:** Councillor Mustard

**MOTION:** That Grant Thornton conduct a detailed historic review of the Municipal Transfer Station Operations, namely increased revenues since June of 2019.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **INTEREST ON PROPERTY TAXES**

**MOVED:** Deputy Warden Poirier

**SECONDED:** Councillor Dowling

**MOTION:** That interest on property taxes be waived for March, April and May of the current year.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **WATER UTILITY BILLING DUE DATE EXTENSION**

**MOVED:** Councillor Dowling

**SECONDED:** Deputy Warden Poirier

**MOTION:** That the Water Utility move forward with the quarterly billing, while extending the due date by an additional thirty (30) days.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **OVERDUE WATER UTILITY ACCOUNTS INTEREST WAIVE**

**MOVED:** Councillor Mustard

**SECONDED:** Councillor Cranton

**MOTION:** That interest on overdue water utility accounts be waived for March, April and May of the current year.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **INVERNESS COUNTY CENTRE FOR THE ARTS – HEATING AND COOLING UPGRADES**

**MOVED:** Councillor Cranton

**SECONDED:** Councillor Mustard

**MOTION:** That Council approve this request in the amount of \$10,000.00, with the

exact funding source to be revisited by Council, once the provincial funding is secured.  
Deputy Warden Poirier, Councillor Cranton, Councillor MacLennan, Councillor Mustard voted in favour. Councillor Dowling voted against.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MARGAREE SALMON MUSEUM – ROOFING REPLACEMENT**

**MOVED:** Councillor Cranton

**SECONDED:** Councillor Dowling

**MOTION:** That Council approve the funding request of \$8,000.00 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).

**MOTION CARRIED**

**EASTERN DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS**

**MOVED:** Councillor Dowling

**SECONDED:** Deputy Warden Poirier

**MOTION:** That Council approve the following Eastern District Planning 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 Unsightly Premises:

Administrator: Jonathan Martin and John Bain

Alternate: Amanda Esterbrooks

Special Constable: Sean Donovan and Jonathan Martin

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PORT HASTINGS POST OFFICE**

**MOTION:** Councillor Dowling

**SECONDED:** Deputy Warden Poirier

**MOTION:** 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.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ORANGEDALE SENIORS HOME**

**MOTION:** Councillor Dowling

**SECONDED:** Councillor MacLennan

**MOTION:** That a letter be sent to the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority as to the future of this building.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CAPE BRETON FOOD HUB**

**MOTION:** Councillor Mustard

**SECONDED:** Councillor Dowling

**MOTION:** 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.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**NO CORRESPONDENCE**

There was discussion regarding summer student grants. Warden MacQuarrie noted that the deadline for applications likely has passed, but this may be extended. Deputy Warden Poirier mentioned that he will make MP Mike Kelloway's contact information available to anyone wanting further information on this matter.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

Committee of the Whole: April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 9:30 am

Regular Monthly Council: May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Recess: 3:18 pm – 3:28 pm

**MOVED:** Councillor Mustard

**SECONDED:** Councillor Cranton

**MOTION:** That Council move to "in camera" at 3:28 pm

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOVED:** Councillor Dowling

**SECONDED:** Councillor Cranton

**MOTION:** That Council move out of "in camera" at 4:05 pm

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOVED:** Councillor Cranton  
**SECONDED:** Councillor Dowling  
**MOTION:** That Council adjourn at 4:05 pm  
**MOTION CARRIED**