

**Municipality of the County of Inverness
Committee of the Whole Meeting
Thursday, June 18th, 2020 9:30 am
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
 Donna MacDonald, Director of Tourism and Culture
 Charlotte MacDonald, Recreation Manager
 Debbie Nicholson, Administrative Assistant to Council
 Melanie Beaton, Special Projects Facilitator
 Karolyn Aucoin, Communications and Community Engagement Specialist
 Aaron MacDonald, Procurement Specialist

Warden MacQuarrie called the meeting to order at 9:30 am and welcomed all in attendance. Roll call was taken.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: Councillor Mustard

SECONDED: Councillor Cranton

MOTION: That the agenda be approved as amended:

- 1) A request for funding from the Margaree Seniors Group, to be added to the Correspondence section of the agenda.

MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATION: Terry Smith, CEO, Destination Cape Breton

Terry Smith outlined some of the initiatives that have been implemented since the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, such as Cape Breton Take Out, and the Gift Card Campaign. He gave an update of the current COVID situation in Nova Scotia. Presently, there are very few COVID cases. Hopefully, and Atlantic Canada “travel bubble” will be announced in July. Through a recent survey, many Nova Scotians report being open to visitors from within Nova Scotia, but not necessarily from outside of Atlantic Canada. Digital advertising remains a key messaging platform for Destination Cape Breton with the “Clean it Right” Program being highlighted. The association continues to work in alignment with Tourism Nova Scotia.

PRESENTATION: Carla Arsenault, and Lynne MacLennan, Cape Breton Partnership

The Cape Breton economy is slowly opening. The partnership continues to work with many levels of government and provide ongoing updates to the business community in relation to supports available since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Guidance and direction are being delivered to businesses regularly. The Atlantic Immigration Pilot Program, and the Cape Breton Local Immigration Partnership are ongoing to address labour gaps on Cape Breton Island and to create welcoming communities for newcomers.

PRESENTATION: Darlene Berthier, CAO, Town of Mulgrave

The Mulgrave wastewater treatment plant is in need of replacement. The town received approval through the ICIP (Investing in Canada Infrastructure) Program, for a 7.3 Million Dollar upgrade for its facility through the province of Nova Scotia. Of this total, 27 % is the Municipal portion (or 110 % of its Operating Budget). The Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM) also has a current wastewater project with a 27 % Municipal portion, which was recently forgiven. The Town of Mulgrave is concerned with their unfair treatment and is seeking clarity as to why this forgiveness was granted to CBRM.

Recommendation to Council to write a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs Chuck Porter, MP Mike Kelloway, and MLA Lloyd Hines asking for clarity on the issue of wastewater treatment plant replacement funding. The letter will be copied to the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, and Minister Marc Peck.

DISCUSSION: Systemic Racism

There was a recent rally in the Municipality to bring attention to the issue of racism in our society. There is consensus that we cannot just talk about it, but extend ourselves, and accept the conditions and inequality that may citizens live with. Councillor Mustard suggested establishing a committee to take a clearer look at this issue.

Recommendation to Council to create a committee to look at the actions that should be undertaken to create a fair and equitable community for all people regardless of race.

Recess: 11:25 am – 11:35 am

PRIDE MONTH REQUEST

Recently, a request came to Municipal Council to fly the Pride flag outside the Port Hood Municipal Building. Consensus that this is a request that can be granted.

Recommendation to Council to fly a Pride flag outside the Port Hood Municipal Building.

MUNICIPAL LAND AND EASEMENT CATALOGUE PROJECT

An initiative aimed at centralizing all Municipal properties and easements into one digital catalogue will be a future project. In the coming months an update will be provided to Council.

ST. ROSE COMMUNITY DIVIDEND FUND

An agreement between The Municipality and Scotianweb Limited Partnership was presented to Council. This agreement outlines how the Municipality and the owners of the St. Rose wind project will collaborate.

Recommendation to Council to support the agreement between the Municipality and Scotianweb Limited Partnership.

WEST BAY ROAD FIRE DEPARTMENT LOAN GUARANTEE

Recommendation to Council to approve the borrowing by the West Bay Road Volunteer Fire Department of Two Hundred Fifty-Seven Thousand and Seven Hundred Dollars (\$257,700.00).

J CLASS ROADS

An allowance for additional J Class Road upgrades was made available in the Spring of 2020. Municipal infrastructure around these roads may or may not need to be repaired or replaced. Further discussion on the Municipal Funding of J Class Road upgrades will occur during the Capital Budget discussions.

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

Inverness Development Association: Inverness Beach and Boardwalk Infrastructure Repairs. The current request of the Municipality is \$20,000.00.

Recommendation to Council to approve the application using the gas tax funds in the amount of \$20,000.00 pending approval of other funding sources.

Cheticamp Salmon Association: Barrier Free Fishing Platform. The current request of the Municipality is \$5,000.00. This platform will allow for barrier free fishing for a greater portion of the population.

Recommendation to Council to approve the application in the amount of \$5,000.00. (\$1250.00 from District # 1 CDG funds, \$1250.00 from District # 2 CDG funds, and \$2,500 from the Recreation Facility Grant.)

Recreation Facility Grant Updates: Several recreation themed grants were received. Provincial funding for these applications was recently announced.

West Mabou Development Association: \$8,800.00 was granted by the Municipality. \$10,885.00 in Provincial funding was requested, \$10,000.00 was granted. The project is moving forward.

Al MacInnis Sports Centre: \$48,848.00 was granted by the Municipality. \$48,848.00 in Provincial funding was requested, \$30,000.00 was granted. The project is moving forward.

Inverness Memorial Heritage Park: \$30,000.00 was granted by the Municipality. \$50,000.00 in Provincial funding was requested, \$30,000.00 was granted. The project is moving forward.

AUTHORIZE THE VOTING BY TELEPHONE AND INTERNET BY-LAW

A draft by-law to authorize the voting by telephone/ internet for the 2020 Municipal Election was introduced to Council.

Recommendation to Council that First Reading of this By-Law will occur at the July 2020 Regular meeting of Municipal Council.

WARDEN AND DEPUTY WARDEN TERMS OF OFFICE POLICY

The Warden and Deputy Warden Terms of Office Policies would replace the existing policies. Greater clarity exists with these updated policies. Two year terms followed by a vote at the two year point would occur for both positions.

Recommendation to Council to adopt the updated Warden Terms of Office Policy, and the Deputy Warden Terms of Office Policy.

Recess: 1:34 pm – 1:52pm

CAPITAL BUDGET 2020-2021

Tanya Tibbo introduced a draft 2020-2021 Capital Budget

Allocation by department is as follows:

Water Utility Operations:	1,577,008.00
General Operations:	1,350,000.00
Infrastructure and Emergency Services:	5,035,115.00
Wastewater Operations:	6,656,057.00
Kenloch Transfer Station:	400,000.00
Recycling Facility:	<u>67,800.00</u>
	<u>\$15,085,980.00</u>

Consensus to table further discussion of the Municipal funding for the J Class Roads program.

STAFF REPORTS

Department of Finance: Highlights include: staff logistics during the COVID-19 Pandemic, audit and budget preparation, tax bill printing, water meter installs with Neptune, addressing various public enquiries, meetings with the Returning Officer regarding the 2020 Municipal Elections, Volunteer Fire Department Area Rate Review, water connects/ disconnects, RFPs, and ongoing invoicing.

Department of Tourism and Culture: Highlights include a Special Participaper issue highlighting the effects of COVID-19 on Municipal communities, a Municipal World Magazine October article featuring the County's Tourism Brand, signage project, Pandemic response, food hamper delivery, Literacy program to resume in the fall of 2020, Destination Cape Breton initiatives, trails events, grants applications, as well as a number of local summer marketing campaigns.

Department of Recreation: Highlights include numerous funding applications, physical activity leadership, summer students, and a rebranding of local Food Banks in partnership with Feed Nova Scotia.

Special Projects: Highlights include team building with consultants for multiple initiatives, posting RFPs, and infrastructure site visits.

BROADBAND PROJECT

Maps were provided to Council by Bell Aliant highlighting footprints for the communities of Inverness and Cheticamp. These areas will be impacted during the first phase of Develop Nova Scotia's Internet for Nova Scotia initiative.

CORRESPONDENCE

Climate Leadership Course for Elected Officials: This online course is being made available by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and will take place from September – November 2020.

Eastern District Planning Commission: May 2020 permit statistics were made available to Council.

Margaree Seniors Group: A \$300 request of the Municipality was made by the Margaree Seniors Group in light of the fact that they were unable to fundraise as usual this year, due to COVID-19 restrictions. Charlotte MacDonald has agreed to help the Margaree Seniors Group seek funding through Senior programs.

Dalbrae Academy Graduation Celebration: An outdoors ceremony to acknowledge the 2020 Dalbrae graduates is planned at the Judique JRA grounds. A committee of Graduate parents is seeking sponsorship from the Municipality in hosting this event. No funding is requested. Recommendation to Council that the Municipality sponsor this event, provided that the Municipality is named as an insurer for any insurance secured for the event.

Consensus that a future meeting of Council will address the J Class Roads, and the 2020-2021 Water Utilities Operations Budget.

Next Meeting Date:

July 9th – Regular Monthly Council

July 23rd – Committee of the Whole

No "In Camera"

MOVED: Deputy Warden Poirier

SECONDED: Councillor Dowling

MOTION: That Council adjourn at 3:55 pm

MOTION CARRIED