

**Municipality of the County of Inverness
Committee of the Whole Meeting
Thursday, July 23rd, 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
 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
 Chestley Carr, Manager of Water and Wastewater
 Ellen Murphy, Manager of Infrastructure
 Trudy Gillis, Manager of Facilities and Environmental Compliance

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Recommendation by Councillor Cranton that the agenda be approved as presented.

PRESENTATION: Lynne MacLennan, Cape Breton Partnership

Lynne MacLennan outlined some of the business advisory services provided to county businesses since the onset of COVID-19. The focus is switching somewhat toward helping them reopen and recover. Since March 2020 80-90 businesses have been receiving on going support; some weekly or even daily. Some new business files have been opened recently, such as new entrepreneurs, as well as some looking to expand and grow. Since COVID-19 most tourism related businesses are experiencing declines, but some are seeing an increase in local travellers.

Other Partnership initiatives include the Cape Breton's online Job Board, A Call for Artists, the Virtual Advisor Program, TIANS Seasonality Project, the latest edition of ELEVATE Magazine, and the Cape Breton First Campaign, which encourages local shopping, staying and dining.

FUNDING REQUEST: Stoney Point Road

Stoney Point Road is a private, non listed road in District # 4 with 14 residences. The Stoney Point Community Group is seeking funding in the amount of \$5000-\$6000 from the Municipality to assist with road maintenance and curbside garbage collection.

Recommendation by Councillor Dowling for staff to examine the policies around Municipal services such as road maintenance and curbside garbage collection offered to private roads, and the costs involved in providing these services in the Stoney Point Road area.

J CLASS ROADS

Municipal staff are in communication with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (NS-TIR) on this program. A number of tender packages have gone out for paving recently, with more to come. There is significant water and sewer line replacement required on some J Roads, whereas some others do not require as much. In District # 3, Veteran's Memorial Court requires significant infrastructure improvements however the Old Deepdale Road does not have aged infrastructure.

Recommendation to Council to replace the paving priority for District # 3 from Veteran's Memorial Court to the Old Deepdale Road, due to the significant upgrades required of Veteran's Memorial Court.

There is some sidewalk development associated with the main street in Whycomomagh. The design is proceeding, and the cost estimates are underway. Municipal staff is in communication with NS-TIR regarding the tenders.

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM – Make a Wish Foundation

An application was received from the Make a Wish Foundation. There are currently close to eighty wishes in progress. Children between the ages of three and seventeen are served by this program. In Inverness County, Children's Wish has granted wishes to four children. The current request is \$3,000.00

Recommendation to Council to grant this request of the Make a Wish Foundation in the amount of \$3,000, with funds coming from District CDC funds.

STAFF REPORTS

Department of Tourism and Culture, Donna MacDonald

The Pandemic Response Team continues to work with the Food Hamper Program, through Schools Plus. The program recently transitioned into a gift card program. Other initiatives that are ongoing include the Margaree Site Plan and Brand and Signage project, Communities in Bloom, Summer

Employment, the Literacy Program which will resume in October of this year, Musical Coast Signage, Local Summer Marketing campaign, Pop-up Music series, and Trail Group Support.

Department of Recreation, Charlotte MacDonald

Funding has been received for the Seniors Alert Pendant Program, and Canada Summer student program. Gift cards are being issued to participants of the SchoolsPlus Hamper program. The help line remains active, although with fewer calls. BookKings Software is being used for equipment loaning. Overall, there is an increase in recreation activities. Safety reports, in light of COVID-19 are required prior to any funding being granted.

Special Projects, Melanie Beaton

The focus has been on advancing the work of cross functional, internal teams and in partnership with various consultant teams and regulatory bodies, specific to each project, building preparedness, capacity and organizational knowledge for more informed decision making. Ongoing Project highlights include the Whycocomagh Streetscape Plan, Cellular Expansion RFP, Margaree Brand & Signage Plan, Inverness Growth Management Strategy, Inverness WWTP SAR & Pre-Design Study, Port Hood Innovation Space, former Port Hood Public Wharf, Port Hood Island Wharf, Water Modelling Study, Generator Project, Saint Rose Community Dividend Fund, J-Class Roads, Cabot Trail Washrooms, Wellfield Development Programs, Municipal Asset Management Program Application, and the Community Grants Program.

Water and Wastewater Operations, Chestley Carr

The focus in water/waste treatment operations and maintenance is to make sure each facility and site is functioning properly and meeting the approval guidelines set by Nova Scotia Environment. Recent highlights include VTS SCADA/PC stage 1 upgrades, Convent Street Water Treatment Plant run in Auto Mode, the Generator Project, Cl2 Flow meters at Convent and Dunmore Water Treatment Plants, a Backup Diesel engine in Cheticamp, lift station #4, Drying Beds at the Cheticamp Sewer Treatment Plant, Filter #2 Repair at the Strathlorne Water Treatment Plant, and the decommission of the reservoir on the Banks Road.

Infrastructure Unit, Ellen Murphy

Recent highlights include on-going sewer and water servicing, asphalt cut repairs, J Roads, Judique Well Site Access, scheduling of service installation, and curb stop repairs. Weekly and bi-weekly internal online department meetings continue regarding well exploration and J Class Roads, as well as consultation with Strum Engineering regarding drainage issues.

Operations and Occupational Health and Safety

Manager Erin Gillis was absent today; her staff report was included in the Council package.

Environmental Compliance, Trudy Gillis

This department is responsible for ensuring that all reporting for Nova Scotia Environment, as well as Federal reporting is completed and up to date. Information has been gathered regarding water and wastewater treatment, flows and infrastructure for various projects. A sampling plan has been developed and distributed to the Manager of Operations and Maintenance. Multiple online meetings and conference calls continue within the department, and with external partners to discuss completed, on-going, and future work.

CORRESPONDENCE

The June 2020 building permit statistics from the Eastern District Planning Commission were distributed to Council.

Worth Bridge – Correspondence was received from James St. Clair regarding the future of the Worth Bridge in Mull River. He is concerned since being informed that this bridge is scheduled for removal, and not to be replaced.

Recommendation to Council that a letter be written to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal regarding the future the Worth Bridge in Mull River.

Leadership School for Women and Girls – Correspondence was received from Karen Anne Bernard and Brenda Chisholm-Beaton, co-chairs of Government FOCUS thanking Inverness County Council for sponsorship of the Leadership School for Women and Girls rescheduled for August 21st and 22nd, 2020. This Leadership School will inform women about local government at both the First Nation Band level, and the Municipal level, as well as to inspire women to become more involved in building their communities as leaders.

Next Meeting Date:

August 6th – Regular Monthly Council

August 20th – Committee of the Whole

No “In Camera”

MOVED: Deputy Warden Poirier

SECONDED: Councillor Dowling

MOTION: That Council adjourn at 11:32 am

MOTION CARRIED