

Municipality of the County of Inverness
Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, June 4th, 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
 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
 Roy MacLean, Assistant Director of Finance
 Beverley MacDonald, Tax Revenue Clerk
 Katie Beaton, File Clerk

Warden MacQuarrie called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm and welcomed all in attendance. Roll call was taken. The Warden recognized the turmoil currently underway in the United States, made especially challenging during a pandemic.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: Deputy Warden Poirier

SECONDED: Councillor Dowling

MOTION: That the agenda be approved as amended:

- 1) Second Reading of Request for Rezoning from C-2 to O-1 by The Municipality of the County of Inverness for lands identified by PID# 50205632, 50329853, and 50319656.
- 2) Nomination of an additional one year term to the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority for Claude Poirier.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED: Councillor Dowling
SECONDED: Councillor Cranton
MOTION: That the regular Council minutes of May 7th, 2020 be approved.
MOTION CARRIED

MOVED: Deputy Warden Poirier
SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan
MOTION: That the Committee of the Whole minutes of May 21st, 2020 be approved.
MOTION CARRIED

MOVED: Councillor MacLennan
SECONDED: Councillor Cranton
MOTION: That the Special Meeting minutes of May 28th, 2020 be approved.
MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING

Councillor Dowling noted that repairs to the exterior of the Port Hastings Post Office started yesterday.

PRESENTATION: Paul Poirier; President, Chéticamp Ground Search and Rescue

Paul Poirier came to the Municipal Meeting of Council to ask about possible funding for this organization. Discussion included the number of search and rescue groups in the Municipality, and the areas they serve. Consensus to discuss this possible funding option at future meetings of Council.

MOTION: APPLICATION FOR REZONING

MOVED: Councillor Mustard
SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan
MOTION: That the Application for Rezoning from C-2 to O-1 by The Municipality of the County of Inverness for lands identified by PID# 50205632, 50329853, and 50319656 be given Second Reading.
MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATION: Dornie Gillis: 2020 Municipal Returning Officer

Dornie Gillis the Returning Officer for the 2020 Municipal Elections updated Council. Mr. Gillis introduced Jaime Beaton, Revisions Assistant. Highlights included:

- The Preliminary list of electors: This will be available after July 15th.
- Voting Venues: There will be elections in six districts. October 16th will be preparation day.

- Workers: One hundred four workers are required, plus twelve advance poll workers. Additional Cleaning staff for venues may be needed.
- Training for workers: This will take place in June.
- Social distancing rules, if still in place in October will have to be strictly followed.
- Nominations will be held by appointment from September 1st – September 4th 2020.

Comments were provided by Council. Topics covered include the campaigning process during a pandemic, the possible of town halls, polling logistics on an election day, venue sanitation, and rates of pay for Municipal Elections Employees. At this time, some uncertainty remains regarding the rules and logistics around Municipal Elections and the campaigning process.

MOTIONS

ROAD NAME CHANGE

MOVED: Councillor MacLennan

SECONDED: Councillor Dowling

MOTION: That an unnamed private lane off Little Mabou Road in Colindale be named to Ocean Breeze Lane pending a change of County from Richmond to Inverness in the Eastern District Planning Commission Location Map.

MOTION CARRIED

NOVA SCOTIA MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS DATE

MOVED: Councillor Dowling

SECONDED: Councillor Cranton

MOTION: That a letter be written to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing expressing our concerns regarding holding a Municipal Election in October of 2020. Premier Stephen McNeil, MLA Allan MacMaster, and Dr Robert Strang to be copied on the letter.

MOTION CARRIED

INVERNESS COUNTY HOMES: SMALL OPTIONS HOMES

MOVED: Councillor MacLennan

SECONDED: Councillor Dowling

MOTION: That a letter be sent to Premier Stephen McNeil asking for clarification as to why some frontline health care workers were excluded from the wage top up program. MP Mike Kelloway, MLA Allan MacMaster, the Minister of Health and Wellness, and the Minister of Community Services to be copied on the letter.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMUNITY GRANTS: GLENDALE & AREA COMMUNITY COOPERATIVE LIMITED

MOVED: Councillor Dowling

SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan

MOTION: That Council approve the \$7,500.00 request, with \$5,195.00 of funding coming from District 6 CDC Budget unspent monies that are now in the Regional Grant Account. \$2,305.00 of funding to come from the 2020-2021 District #6 CDC budget (yet to be determined).

MOTION CARRIED

DUPLICATE ACCOUNT: REQUEST FOR WRITE-OFF

MOVED: Councillor Mustard

SECONDED: Councillor Cranton

MOTION: That a letter be written to PVSC and copied to M Morris regarding the issue of three duplicate accounts, and the resulting payments made.

MOTION CARRIED

REPAIRS TO INVERNESS WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT DIGESTER

MOVED: Councillor Mustard

SECONDED: Deputy Warden Poirier

MOTION: That \$82,275.82 be funded through the gas tax fund for the repairs to the Inverness wastewater treatment plant digester.

MOTION CARRIED

LETTER OF SUPPORT, ACADIAN COMMUNICATIONS

MOVED: Deputy Warden Poirier

SECONDED: Councillor Cranton

MOTION: That Council provide a letter of support to Acadian Communications towards their bid submission to Phase 2 of Develop Nova Scotia's Broadband Initiative.

MOTION CARRIED

UPDATE: OLD PORT HOOD GOVERNMENT WHARF

Melanie Beaton provided an update to Council. This wharf structure is in an advanced state of deterioration and the recent conditional assessment conducted by Dillon Engineering provided the scope of work necessary to undertake a demolition and stabilization project. The demolition and removal of the deteriorated outer "T" shaped wharf and the stabilization of the breakwater at the former Port Hood Public Wharf site will ensure the integrity of the beach as it is influenced by the existing wharf structure, and will protect public health and safety. Necessary permits in compliance with the federal Navigable Waters Act and the Federal Fisheries Act are being advanced at this time. The procurement document will hopefully be finalized and posted in the coming weeks.

2020-2021 OPERATIONS BUDGET

Keith MacDonald highlighted the Operational priorities of the 2020-2021 budget for Council. Tanya Tibbo provided a detailed breakdown of anticipated revenues and expenditures for the 2020-2021 fiscal year in a balanced budget. Tax rates and area rates will remain the same. Improved service delivery, and continued support for Council and staff, as well as residents, communities, businesses, and non profit organizations are the priorities going forward.

MOTION: RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 72 of the Municipal Government Act, of the Province of Nova Scotia, the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Inverness hereby authorize the levying and collection of a commercial property rate of \$1.91 and a residential and resource rate of \$1.05 per one hundred dollars of the assessed value of property and on the assessment roll which the said Council deems sufficient to raise the sum required to defray the expenditures of the said Municipality which amount to \$17,249,500.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the area rates be established as follows in the following areas:

Volunteer Fire Department Area Rates

District 1

Cheticamp Volunteer Fire Department	\$0.10	Per \$100 of assessment.
Cheticamp Volunteer Fire Department (Commercial)	\$0.06	Per \$100 of assessment.
Pleasant Bay Volunteer Fire Department	\$125.00	Per property with a Dwelling Unit.
Meat Cove Volunteer Fire Department	\$60.00	Per Property with a Dwelling Unit.

District 2

NE Margaree Volunteer Fire Department	\$ 0.10	Per \$100 of assessment.
Margaree Volunteer Fire Department	\$ 0.10	Per \$100 of assessment.
Margaree Volunteer Fire Department (Commercial)	\$ 0.10	Per \$100 of assessment.
LeMoine Volunteer Fire Department	\$ 0.10	Per \$100 of assessment.
Lemoine Volunteer Fire Department (Commercial)	\$ 0.10	Per \$100 of assessment.

District 3

Inverness Volunteer Fire Department	\$ 0.08	Per \$100 of assessment.
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District 4

Whycocomagh Volunteer Fire Department	\$ 0.10	Per \$100 of assessment.
Ainslee/Upper Margaree Volunteer Fire Department	\$ 0.10	Per \$100 of assessment.
Valley Mills Volunteer Fire Department	\$ 0.10	Per \$100 of assessment.
Blues Mills Volunteer Fire Department	\$ 0.10	Per \$100 of assessment.
Blues Mills Volunteer Fire Department (Commercial)	\$ 0.05	Per \$100 of assessment.

District 5

Port Hood Volunteer Fire Department	\$ 0.10	Per \$100 of assessment.
Port Hood Volunteer Fire Department (Commercial)	\$ 0.06	Per \$100 of assessment.
Port Hood Island Volunteer Fire Department	\$ 0.022	Per \$100 of assessment.
Mabou Volunteer Fire Department (1 Dwelling)	\$100.00	For Properties with One Dwelling.
Mabou Volunteer Fire Department	\$200.00	For Properties with More than One Dwelling.

District 6

West Bay Volunteer Fire Department	\$ 0.10	Per \$100 of assessment.
Port Hastings Volunteer Fire Department	\$ 0.10	Per \$100 of assessment.
Judique Volunteer Fire Department	\$ 0.10	Per \$100 of assessment.

Sewer Area Rates

Sewer (District 1)	\$ 0.34	Per \$100 of assessment.
Sewer (Districts 2-6)	\$ 0.33	Per \$100 of assessment.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the said Council hereby require payment of the said rates to be made to the Tax Collector or Treasurer of the said Municipality on August 28th, 2020.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the said Council hereby impose an additional percentage of 0.5% per month on all rates and taxes remaining unpaid after August 28th, 2020.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council fixes April 1st, 2021 as the day after which the tax collector may proceed to issue warrants for the collection on all rates and taxes then unpaid.

That the Operating budget for the year ending March 31st, 2021 be approved.

MOVED: Deputy Warden Poirier

SECONDED: Councillor Dowling

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter of Support for the Town of Mulgrave: An upgrade to the Mulgrave wastewater treatment plant is required. Mayor Hadley feels that Mulgrave is being treated unfairly in respect to other Municipalities facing similar infrastructure upgrades.

MOVED: Councillor Dowling

SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan

MOTION: That a letter of support be sent to the Town of Mulgrave in consideration of their need for a new wastewater treatment plant.

MOTION CARRIED

Frank MacInnis is currently serving as the Municipality of the County of Inverness representative on the Strait of Canso Superport Corporation Board. Mr. MacInnis is completing his current term and is eligible to serve a second three year term. In addition, an alternate is sought to serve in the event that Mr. MacInnis is unavailable.

MOVED: Councillor Mustard

SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan

MOTION: That Frank MacInnis be renominated as the Municipality of the County of Inverness representative on the Strait of Canso Superport Corporation Board. An alternate will be determined at a later date, preferably from Municipal District number six.

MOTION CARRIED

Bell Aliant is submitting a proposal to the second phase of the Broadband Initiative through Develop Nova Scotia. They are seeking a letter of support from the Municipality.

MOVED: Councillor Dowling

SECONDED: Councillor Cranton

MOTION: That Council provide a letter of support to Bell Aliant towards their bid submission to Phase 2 of the Develop Nova Scotia's Broadband initiative

MOTION CARRIED

Claude Poirier is currently on the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority Board. Correspondence was received indicating Mr. Poirier be nominated for an additional one year term.

MOVED: Deputy Warden Poirier

SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan

MOTION: That Claude Poirier be nominated to serve for an additional one year term on the Cape Breton Island Housing Authority Board.

MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Committee of the Whole: June 18th, 2020 9:30 am

NO "In Camera"

MOVED: Councillor Dowling

SECONDED: Deputy Warden Poirier

MOTION: That Council adjourn at 3:42 pm

MOTION CARRIED