

**Municipality of the County of Inverness
Regular Council Meeting Thursday,
August 6th, 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
 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. Roll call was taken. A moment of silence was held in honour for the victims of the recent explosion in Beirut, Lebanon.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED: Councillor Dowling
SECONDED: Councillor Mustard
MOTION: That the regular Council minutes of July 9th, 2020 be approved.
MOTION CARRIED

MOVED: Deputy Warden Poirier
SECONDED: Councillor Dowling
MOTION: That the Committee of the Whole minutes of July 23rd, 2020 be approved.
MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATION: NS POWER; Paul Casey, Paul Breski, Mary Black

The NS Power Smart Meter Project has recently been implemented. These meters will help to modernize Nova Scotia's Power grid. Energy usage data is sent over a secure wireless network, where daily information on energy use will be made available. With these meters, NS Power will be notified once a customer's power goes out. No additional charge will result from the installation of a Smart Meter. Residential installation takes about fifteen minutes. Meter changeouts began in Cape Breton on July 27th, 2020.

PRESENTATION: STONEY POINT ROAD COMMITTEE: Wayne Hopkins, Alfred Woodworth, Al Rodee, Clinton Hadley, Chris Tobin

The Stoney Point Road Committee is a 2 km stretch of private road in District # 4 with fourteen residences. Snow removal and grading was done by the Department of Transportation for the last thirty years. The residents have been told that starting this winter, they will no longer be receiving this service. Residents would like to see funding come from the Municipality to cover the cost of snow removal, with any monies left over to go toward garbage collection and ditching.

PRESENTATION: PORT HOOD & AREA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION: Judy Watts, Linda MacMillan, Sandy Gillis

The Port Hood & Area Development Association is proposing to develop a small park area near the South entrance to the village. Enhancements would include a gravel parking area, a pathway, several benches/ picnic areas, landscaping, rope-and-post fencing, and a guard rail extension. Costs are estimated to be \$20,000.00. The committee is asking for consideration of the Municipality to fund these items, and to be a partner on the project. The anticipated timeline of the project is the Spring of 2021.

UPDATE: DERNIE GILLIS, MUNICIPAL RETURNING OFFICER, 2020 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Dernie Gillis provided an update to Council. Highlights include:

- All venues have been booked in advance of the October Municipal Election. Until nomination day, it will not be clear exactly how many venues will be required.
- There is a possibility of downsizing the number of polls.
- There are three workers committed for all polls, with the possibility of more workers needed due to rotating shifts.
- The preliminary list of electors has come from the province.
- The call for nominations will come out later this month.
- A training session for returning officers was held this morning.
- There is a multitude of content related to the Municipal Election contained on the Municipal website, such as forms, maps and candidate information.

UPDATE: Water Treatment Plant, Dunmore Road, Port Hood

There is a groundwater well at Dunmore Road that is one of three wells connected to the Port Hood water utility. This well has been experiencing decreasing levels of water productivity lately. This issue has been brought to the attention of EXP consultants. They recommend a cleaning and video program for this well. This would involve pulling the pump to determine if a new pump is required. Island Well Drillers provided an estimate of \$16,050.00 to video and clean the well. A cost estimate of a new pump is \$10,000.

MOVED: Councillor Mustard

SECONDED: Councillor Dowling

MOTION: That Council support the infrastructure repairs and maintenance to the Dunmore Road Water Treatment Plant.

MOTION CARRIED

UPDATE: Generator Project

The generator project is underway at Municipal Water Treatment Plants. Surge protection is required at these generator locations. Each unit is estimated to cost \$2125.00, for a total cost of \$14,875.00. Consensus to purchase surge protection for these locations, with funds coming from the gas tax fund.

UPDATE: Municipal Council Meetings

Council was provided with an update from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing on how meetings can be held exclusively in person provided that certain conditions are met. Councils can make that determination if they feel it is safe to do so. Consensus to add this direction to the August 20th Committee of the Whole meeting (which will be held via video conference).

SECOND READING: By-Law to Authorize the Voting by Telephone and Internet for the 2020 Municipal Election

MOVED: Councillor Dowling

SECONDED: Deputy Warden Poirier

MOTION: That second reading be given to the By-Law to Authorize the Voting by Telephone and Internet for the 2020 Municipal Election.

MOTION CARRIED

RECOMMENDATIONS

STONE POINT ROAD

MOVED: Councillor Mustard

SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan

MOTION: That staff 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.

MOTION CARRIED

J CLASS ROADS

MOVED: Councillor Mustard

SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan

MOTION: That Council 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 and that due to significant work involved with Forest Street, James Street will be made the priority prior to Forest Street. The Municipality will continue to work on the design and upgrades of the infrastructure required of Veteran's Memorial Court and Forest Street prior to any paving considerations.

MOTION CARRIED

THREE YEAR J CLASS ROAD AGREEMENT

MOVED: Councillor Dowling

SECONDED: Deputy Warden Poirier

MOTION: That Council agree to the Cost Share Agreement No. 2020-013 with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMUNITY GRANTS APPLICATION – MAKE A WISH FOUNDATION

MOVED: Councillor Dowling

SECONDED: Councillor Cranton

MOTION: That Council grant the request of the Make a Wish Foundation in the amount of \$3,000, with funds coming from District CDC funds

MOTION CARRIED

WORTH BRIDGE

MOVED: Councillor Dowling

SECONDED: Councillor Cranton

MOTION: That a letter be written to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal regarding the future the Worth Bridge in Mull River.

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE: Tax Exemption Request, St. Mary's Parish Hall, Mabou

A letter was received from St. Mary's Parish Hall in Mabou requesting Tax Exemption. Consistency across the board for such exemptions is ideal. Consensus that the Municipal Department of Finance will further research tax exempt properties within the Municipality.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Committee of the Whole: August 20th, 2020
Regular Monthly Council: September 3rd, 2020

RECESS: 5:00 pm – 5:12 pm

MOVED: Councillor Dowling
SECONDED: Councillor Cranton
MOTION: That Council move to "in camera" at 5:15 pm.
MOTION CARRIED

MOVED: Councillor Dowling
SECONDED: Councillor Mustard
MOTION: That Council move back to Regular Council at 6:05 pm.
MOTION CARRIED

MOTION CARRIED
MOVED: Councillor Cranton
SECONDED: Councillor Dowling
MOTION: That Council adjourn at 6:06 pm
MOTION CARRIED