

**Municipality of the County of Inverness
Regular Council Meeting Thursday,
September 3rd, 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
 Debbie Nicholson, Administrative Assistant to Council
 Melanie Beaton, Special Projects Facilitator
 Erin Gillis, Manager of Operations and Occupational Health and Safety
 Charlotte MacDonald, Manager of Recreation

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED: Deputy Warden Poirier
SECONDED: Councillor Dowling
MOTION: That the Regular Council minutes of August 6th, 2020 be approved.
MOTION CARRIED

MOVED: Councillor Cranton
SECONDED: Councillor Dowling
MOTION: That the Committee of the Whole minutes of August 20th, 2020 be approved.
MOTION CARRIED

UPDATE: Food Hamper Program, Charlotte MacDonald, Manager of Recreation

Since School resumes on September 8, 2020, the Pandemic Response Team has suspended the Hamper Program as of August 27th. The Breakfast Program within the schools will be reinstated. The Hamper Program was in partnership with SchoolsPlus, and it continued into the summer. Ninety six families were eligible for the Gift Card Program for groceries. Many community partners were involved in this initiative, including SchoolsPlus, Strait Area Transit, The Salvation Army, Good Food Foundation, Nova Scotia Teacher’s Union, and local fire halls. The Port Hood Fire hall served as home base for the distribution. In addition, one hundred thirty activity kits were distributed over the summer. Should the need continue, the Pandemic Response Team will continue to seek out funding partners for future distributions. Many positive comments to this initiative were received via the participant survey.

UPDATE: Vacation Locally Campaign – Donna MacDonald, Director of Tourism and Culture

Following the lead of Destination Cape Breton, the Department of Tourism and Culture promoted the importance of local residents and Atlantic Canadian visitors to travel locally, and “explore home”. Residents were directed to local visitor information centers and to support local businesses.

UPDATE: Music Mondays – Donna MacDonald, Director of Tourism and Culture

Music Mondays is a facebook campaign that promotes local musical artists in some iconic locations but also offering a peek at some hidden gems to be discovered in Inverness County. The goal of this initiative is to support and promote our local artists, venues, businesses as well as trails, beaches and harbours. Each Monday’s post will feature a musical video or photos supporting local events and venues.

UPDATE: Transfer Station Operations – Erin Gillis, Operations Manager

The new truck and trailer for the Transfer Station has arrived. Beginning on Tuesday, September 8th, appointments will no longer be required for residents visiting the Transfer Station. Social distancing rules will still be enforced going forward. A fall heavy garbage pick up is in the planning stages. Staff are working on a Request for Proposals to be issued for this initiative.

RECOMMENDATIONS

ROAD NAME CHANGE – TULLY KAY LANE

MOVED: Councillor Dowling

SECONDED: Councillor Mustard

MOTION: That an unnamed private road in Harbourview, District 5 be named Tully Kay Lane.

MOTION CARRIED

ROAD NAME CHANGE – JAKE’S LANE

MOVED: Councillor Mustard

SECONDED: Councillor Dowling

MOTION: That an unnamed private road in Broad Cove, District 3 be named Jake’s Lane.

MOTION CARRIED

CHETICAMP CROASSWALK REQUEST – CABOT TRAIL HIGHWAY / BARREN ROAD

MOVED: Deputy Warden Poirier

SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan

MOTION: That a letter be written to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, Steve MacDonald, and Bernie Murphy outlining this request. The inclusion of amber lights at this location will also be requested.

MOTION CARRIED

DISCRETIONARY GRANT APPLICATION – NORTH MOUNTAIN CULTURAL AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION

MOVED: Councillor Dowling

SECONDED: Deputy Warden Poirier

MOTION: That Council grant this request of the North Mountain Cultural & Recreation Association in the amount of \$1,700, with funds coming from District # 6’s Discretionary Budget.

MOTION CARRIED

MUNICIPAL MEETINGS

CAO Keith MacDonald provided an update to Council.

For Municipal meetings to resume in Council Chambers, the maximum capacity would be 16-18 people, including council, staff, media, and the public. Masks would be mandatory, and social distancing would have to be practiced. The option to attend via conference call will be made available. Consensus of Council that the September 17th Committee of the Whole meeting will be held in person in Council Chambers with proper precautions being taken.

MOVED: Councillor Mustard

SECONDED: Councillor Dowling

MOTION: That Municipal staff will be directed to have Council Chambers prepared for an in person meeting on September 17th, 2020

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE: Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

A letter was received from the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture outlining the launch of the Marine Debris Clean Up Program which provides financial support to remove debris from areas that are of commercial and social importance to the seafood sector of Nova Scotia.

Municipal staff will be directed to reach out to the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture staff to see how the Municipality may be able to assist in this endeavor.

CORRESPONDENCE: Unconscious Bias within the workplace: Training Session

Correspondence was received from the Association of Municipal Administrators regarding a virtual training opportunity on Unconscious Bias Within the Workplace. This session will address Unconscious Bias and identify tools that will support municipalities in addressing barriers to inclusion within the organization and communities. It is scheduled for September 15th at 2pm.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL – Over Estimate Memo

Correspondence was received from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR) regarding agreement 2020-029 Highway 105 Route 252 sidewalk/water/sewer. A response for this tender was received. The tender amount came back as significantly higher than what was estimated; a 51.3% increase from the original estimate.

Municipal Infrastructure Servicing - \$54,275.00 increase from the estimate.

Sidewalk Project - \$200, 024.50 increase from the estimate.

Recommendation from staff that the Municipality tender the process for the sidewalk construction independently from TIR and continue with the Municipal Infrastructure Servicing portion of the project.

MOVED: Councillor Mustard

SECONDED: Councillor Dowling

MOTION: That the Municipality proceed with an independent tender for the Whycocomagh Sidewalk project portion of Construction Agreement 2020-029.

MOTION CARRIED

MOVED: Deputy Warden Poirier

SECONDED: Councillor Dowling

MOTION: That the Municipality support the increase of \$54,275.00 for the infrastructure servicing work portion of Construction Agreement 2020-029.

MOTION CARRIED

Consensus that updates on the following items will be provided at the next Committee of the Whole:

1. Cell Service Request for Proposals
2. Hurricane readiness

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Committee of the Whole: September 17th, 2020
Regular Monthly Council: October 1st, 2020

RECESS: 3:20 pm – 3:30 pm

MOVED: Deputy Warden Poirier
SECONDED: Councillor Dowling
MOTION: That Council move to “in camera” at 3:35 pm.
MOTION CARRIED

MOVED: Councillor Mustard
SECONDED: Councillor Dowling
MOTION: That Council move back to Regular Council at 5:20pm.
MOTION CARRIED

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM “IN CAMERA”

MOVED: Councillor Mustard
SECONDED: Deputy Warden Poirier
MOTION: That Council grants the following easements for J W MacKinnon Holdings Ltd at 15932 Central Avenue, Inverness, PID # 50129154:

1. An access easement onto the lane/alleyway which runs parallel to River Street and Beaton Street and accesses Central Avenue.
2. Access to construct drainage along the south side of the lane, adjacent to the north side of the property line at 15932 line, to ensure the flow of ground water to an existing ditch on Central Avenue.

MOTION CARRIED

MOVED: Deputy Warden Poirier
SECONDED: Councillor Dowling
MOTION: That Council grant a right of way to Daniel Skinner over the lot known as Alexander Avenue to gain access to his property for the development of a home.

MOTION CARRIED

MOVED: Deputy Warden Poirier
SECONDED: Councillor Dowling
MOTION: That Council adjourn at 5:30 pm
MOTION CARRIED