

**Municipality of the County of Inverness  
Committee of the Whole Meeting  
Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
9:30 am  
Council Chambers**

Council: Warden Betty Ann MacQuarrie  
Deputy Warden Alfred Poirier  
Councillor John MacLennan  
Councillor Laurie Cranton  
Councillor Jim Mustard (via teleconference)  
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 Coordinator  
Karolyn Aucoin, Communications and Community Engagement Specialist  
Chestley Carr, Water/Wastewater Operations Manager  
Erin Gillis, Manager of Operations and Occupational Health and Safety

Warden MacQuarrie called the meeting to order at 9:30 am and welcomed all in attendance. Roll call was taken. The Warden acknowledged that we are in Mi'gma'mi, the ancestral and territorial land of the Mi'kmaq people and hoped for peace to the current situation of unrest in St. Mary's Bay, Digby County.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Recommendation by Deputy Warden Poirier that the agenda be approved as presented.

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERN: TWO ROADS NAMED SOUTH SIDE RIVER DENYS ROAD**

A map was provided to Council indicating two roads in District # 4 that have the same name (South Side River Denys Road) and are separated by a 130 metre section of the Big Brook Road. This has been confusing for emergency vehicles in the past. Councillor MacLennan will meet with some residents, and Department of Transportation representatives to see what steps have to be followed in order to have this road's (or a portion of) name changed.

## **AMENDMENT TO BY-LAW 30: CAPITAL COST OF WATER AND SEWER**

The Silverwood Lane Development is located in the village of Inverness. In 2018 this project was completed and Municipal sewer services were extended to this area.

Recommendation made by Councillor Dowling that the amended By-Law 30 be sent to Council for First Reading.

*In the area served by the Inverness Sewer and Water system, namely Silverwood Lane, the frontage rate is hereby set at \$47.77 per lineal foot for sewer and water.*

## **COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION: L'Acabie**

L'Acabie is hoping to purchase a new Mazda Van to replace the 2016 Caravan vehicle which is in need of significant work in order to pass inspection. The total project cost is \$37,128.04.

Recommendation made by Councillor Cranton that Council fund this request in the amount of \$5,000.00 out of District # 2's CDC/Discretionary Budget contingent on receipt of provincial funding.

Recommendation made by Deputy Warden Poirier that Council fund this request in the amount of \$5,000.00 out of District # 1's CDC/Discretionary Budget contingent on receipt of provincial funding.

Recommendation made by Councillor Cranton that Public Transit in Inverness County as a whole be reviewed.

## **REQUEST FOR REALLOCATION OF FUNDS: INVERNESS VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE**

Core funding for the Inverness Visitor Information Center that was approved for the 2019-2020 budget was not paid out to the Inverness Development Association. The annual request was inadvertently not submitted to the Municipality before year end.

Recommendation made by Councillor Dowling for Council to fund \$8,000.00 from the Tourism and Culture 2020-2021 budget to cover funds owing the Inverness Development Association.

## **MEETING REQUEST: MLA ALLAN MACMASTER**

Multiple invitations were extended to MLA Allan MacMaster in recent weeks to meet with Municipal Council. He has indicated that he intends to meet with the next Council, after the October 17<sup>th</sup> Municipal election.

## **STAFF REPORTS:**

### **Department of Finance, Tanya Tibbo**

Monthly highlights for the Finance Department include approval of the 2020 audited financial statements, hiring and training of two new permanent staff, the 2020 Municipal election,

Neptune training, and completion of the first fully electronic water meter read and import. Multiple projects, initiatives and meetings are ongoing by the department staff. A breakdown of current tax receivable by district was provided to Council.

Recommendation to Council that Tanya Tibbo will contact the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding area rates owed by hospitals within our Municipality.

### **Department of Tourism and Culture, Donna MacDonald**

Monthly highlights within the Department of Tourism and Culture include the Margaree Brand and Signage Plan, the Music Mondays social media campaign, and the current issue of the Participaper. Multiple projects and initiatives are ongoing including trail maintenance, Cabot Trail website, the Welcoming Newcomers program, and the Winter events brochure. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

### **Department of Recreation, Charlotte MacDonald**

Monthly highlights within the Department of Recreation include the re-posting of the MPAL position, the launch of the Intouch Pendant Program for Seniors, the Recreation Equipment Rental within Cheticamp, the call for Content for Community Voices, and the processing of Kid Sport applications. Community projects and Active Funding Application Submissions continue and multiple meetings within the department and with external partners are ongoing.

### **Special Projects, Melanie Beaton**

A significant amount of work has been advanced in the past month. Special Projects has continued to confer with various consultant teams and project stakeholders. Some of the key projects include the Flow Monitoring Program, Inverness WWTP and Collection System Assessment Report and Pre-Design Study, Hydrant Flow Testing, Flushing and CCTV Inspections, Whycomagh Streetscape Plan, Gypsum Mine Trail, the Former Port Hood Public Wharf, the Port Hood Island Wharf, the Margaree Brand & Signage Plan, the Water Modelling Study, and CAMP Training. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

### **Water and Wastewater Operations, Chestley Carr**

The former Mabou reservoir was the last reservoir still connected to the distribution system. Under Nova Scotia Environment's advice this source was decommissioned. The concern was that the valves isolating the reservoir from the distribution system would fail, and potentially contaminate the treated water. Ongoing tasks include lift station repairs and maintenance, well cleaning and repairs, hydrant flushing and flow testing, water and waste water sampling, and generator setup. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

## **Infrastructure Unit, Ellen Murphy**

Recent highlights include on-going sewer and water servicing, asphalt cut repairs, J Roads, scheduling of service installation, addressing leaks, hydrant moving, the Inverness Wellfield Cleanup, replacing the water line at the Mabou bus garage, curb stop repairs, and establishing a security plan for Municipal properties. October is and continues to be a very busy month for department staff. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

## **Operations and Occupational Health and Safety, Erin Gillis**

The Fall 2020 heavy garbage collection is underway. The contract was awarded to Robert LeBlanc, AL Garbage Removal from Cheticamp. There is a large volume of recycling material on site with staff shortages and vacations compounding the issue. A community household hazardous waste drop off event in partnership with Victoria County and the Town of Port Hawkesbury is planned. Ongoing department projects include Kenloch cell design, historical waste chemical clean up, hazard removal, community garbage bins, and storage buildings in Kenloch and Strathlorne. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

## **Environmental Compliance, Trudy Gillis**

The Annual Sampling Plans for all serviced communities which were due on October 1<sup>st</sup> are completed and submitted. Ms. Gillis is currently working on an asset management program for the water and waste water infrastructure, and began an 8 week course with the Municipal team. Weekly, and monthly reports for Nova Scotia Environment are ongoing and on schedule. Sampling, inspections, and testing are ongoing and frequent. Storm preparation planning, wellfield upgrade planning, generator installations, and interviews were some of the recent department tasks. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

## **CELLULAR TOWER REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

A Request for Proposals for Cellular Service for unserved areas within the Municipality was recently posted. A very detailed project was outlined. Submissions were received and contract negotiations are underway and a report on this initiative is expected at the November meeting of Council.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

- The September 2020 building permit statistics from the Eastern District Planning Commission were presented to Council.

- The winner of the Heartland Tour Most Active County Challenge for this year is Digby County. Consensus that a letter of congratulations will be sent Digby County from the Municipality of the County of Inverness.
- A request for support for Cape Breton Island’s Tourism Industry was received from Destination Cape Breton.  
Recommendation made by Councillor MacLennan that letters be written to the following:
  1. Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland and Members of Parliament Mike Kelloway and Jaime Battiste to support the extension of the wage subsidy program for the hardest hit businesses and to request additional support for tourism operators who may not benefit from the extension of the wage subsidy; and
  2. Nova Scotia Minister of Business Geoff MacLellan to request additional provincial support for tourism operators who may not benefit from the extension of the wage subsidy.

**CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION**

Councillor Jim Mustard was presented with a Ten Year Service Award by the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities.

**2020 MUNICIPAL ELECTION**

Since this is the last meeting of this current Council, all Council members were presented with gifts at the completion of today’s meeting.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

Regular Monthly Council: November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**NO “IN CAMERA”**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED:** Councillor MacLennan  
**SECONDED:** Councillor Dowling  
**MOTION:** That Council adjourn at 11:20 am  
**MOTION CARRIED**