

**Municipality of the County of Inverness  
Committee of the Whole Meeting  
Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
9:30 am  
Council Chambers**

Council: Warden Laurie Cranton  
Deputy Warden Bonny MacIsaac  
Councillor Alfred Poirier  
Councillor John MacLennan  
Councillor Lynn Chisholm  
Councillor Catherine Gillis

Staff: Keith MacDonald, CAO  
Tanya Tibbo, Director of Finance  
Donna MacDonald, Director of Tourism and Culture  
Charlotte MacDonald, Recreation Manager  
Christine Murray, Manager of Legal and Governance  
Debbie Nicholson, Administrative Assistant to Council  
Melanie Beaton, Special Projects Coordinator  
Karolyn Aucoin, Communications and Community Engagement Specialist

Warden Cranton 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 the ancestral and territorial land of the Mi'kmaq people. Warden Cranton reminded Council of an upcoming meeting with MP Mike Kelloway on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 10:30 am

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOVED:** Deputy Warden MacIsaac  
**SECONDED:** Councillor Gillis  
**MOTION:** That the agenda be approved as presented.  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**STAFF REPORTS (Full reports were provided to Council)**

**Department of Finance, Tanya Tibbo**

Monthly highlights for the Finance Department include the automated water meter billing, the 2020 Municipal Election, the 2020 Swearing in Ceremony, and equipment sourcing. Multiple projects, initiatives and meetings are ongoing by the department staff. A breakdown of current tax receivable by district was provided to Council.

## **2020 Municipal Returning Officer, Dornie Gillis**

Mr. Gillis provided a recap of the 2020 Municipal Election to Council, including the voting statistics, venues, and challenges due to COVID-19. He extended a thank you to Municipal Staff for their assistance leading up to, and on Election Day.

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

Monthly highlights within the Department of Tourism and Culture include the winter marketing campaign, the signature sites project review, and the winter events campaign. Multiple projects and initiatives are ongoing including community networking, and the Margaree and Whycomomagh projects. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

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

Monthly highlights within the Department of Recreation include equipment loans, MPAL hiring, Kid Sport, Community Projects, and Active Funding Applications. The Seniors Emergency Pendant Program has been initiated. The program began taking intake on October 5, 2020. To date there are twenty seniors in the program. 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, Whycomomagh 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**

Lift station #1 in Mabou was a huge safety issue, the 60amp disconnect was rusted beyond repair and needed to be replaced. A new disconnect was purchased and Nova Scotia Power was needed to disconnect the power so work could be completed. Ongoing tasks include lift station repairs and maintenance, well cleaning and repairs, hydrant flushing and flow testing, water and waste water sampling, and water transfers from Whycomomagh to Mabou. 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. Staff are down to the final installation of services for this year. This should be completed by the end of the month. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

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

The Scale House Operator position has been filled. DJ Hannigan was the successful candidate. The Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee has returned to in person meetings. Winter prep is taking place to ensure safe workplaces for staff, contractors and visitors. Ongoing department projects include repairs to the Transfer Station building, cell boosters, ground water well repair and replacement, and solid waste education. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

### **Environmental Compliance, Trudy Gillis**

Monthly highlights include federal and provincial reporting, treatment plant inspections, the asset management eight week course, outfall inspections, ongoing sampling, monthly webinars on infrastructure, water, wastewater, and biosolids. There are many projects that need to be completed before winter. Tasks include gathering background information for various project RFIs, assisting other teams where possible, attending meetings/interviews, and developing SOPs for future work. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

### **PRESENTATION: JOHN BAIN, EASTERN DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSION**

Mr. Bain provided an introduction on the role of the Eastern District Planning Commission. There has been a request to review the Cheticamp Municipal Planning Strategy and land Use By- Law due to developments with respect to campgrounds.

The Public Hearing in respect to the proposed amendment to the Cheticamp Municipal Planning Strategy and land use by-law is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 1 pm in Cheticamp. Location to be decided.

### **PRESENTATION: JONATHAN MARTIN, EASTERN DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSION**

Mr. Martin provided a description of three properties within the Municipality that are in a state of disrepair, neglect, and an overall lack of maintenance. The Eastern District Planning Commission has received dangerous and unsightly premises complaints regarding these

properties.

- 16 & 18 Beaton St., Inverness. Recommendation by Councillor Poirier that a demolition order be issued for this property.
- 3972 Hwy 19, Long Point. Recommendation by Councillor MacLennan that a demolition order be issued for this property.
- 15867 Central Ave., Inverness. Recommendation by Councillor MacIsaac that a demolition order be issued for this property.

#### **UPDATE: PANDEMIC RESPONSE, DONNA MACDONALD AND CHARLOTTE MACDONALD**

The Municipality was able to access several external funding programs to help residents that were struggling during COVID-19. Funding sources include the Rural Communities Foundation, Communities, Culture and Heritage, Seniors Safety, and New Horizons. In Partnership with SchoolsPlus and Strait Area Transit, a second delivery of over 700 Emergency Food Hampers was completed. Despite a lower call volume, the Municipal Pandemic Response Team remains open (1-877-258-5550).

#### **BY-LAW MODERNIZATION INITIATIVE, CHRISTINE MURRAY**

In the Spring of 2019, the Province of Nova Scotia and the five municipalities on Cape Breton Island entered into a pilot partnership to improve the regulatory environment for businesses. As part of this pilot, Portside Law, LLP was engaged through the Cape Breton Partnership to review the By-laws of The Municipality of the County of Inverness. In its review, Portside Law, LLP identified 5 by-laws of the Municipality of the County of Inverness that in their opinion, require urgent attention. These are: Curfew By-Law, Capital Cost of Sewer and Water By-Law, Heritage By-law (1982 & 1983), Amendment to Cheticamp Land Use By-Law, and Amendment to Port Hood Planning By-Law and Municipal Planning Strategy.

Council endorsement provided to staff to continue to advance the By-Law Modernization Initiative.

#### **NOMINATION COMMITTEE – COMMITTEE STRUCTURE**

**Audit Committee** – Recommendation by Councillor Chisholm to approve Deputy Warden MacIsaac and Councillor Gillis to the Audit Committee.

**Planning and Advisory Committee** – Recommendation by Councillor MacLennan that all Municipal Councillors participate in the Planning and Advisory Committee.

**Allan J MacEachen Airport Committee** – Recommendation by Councillor Gillis that Councillor MacLennan and Councillor Chisholm participate in the Allan J MacEachen Airport Committee.

**Eastern District Planning Committee** – Recommendation by Deputy Warden MacIsaac that Warden Cranton and Councillor Poirier participate in the Eastern District Planning Commission Committee.

**Eastern Counties Regional Library Committee** – Recommendation by Deputy Warden MacIsaac that Councillor Poirier participate in the Eastern Counties Regional Library Committee.

**Strait of Canso Superport Committee** – Current representative of the Municipality of the County of Inverness is Frank MacInnis.

**Bras d’Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Committee** - Recommendation by Deputy Warden MacIsaac that Councillor MacLennan participate in the Bras d’Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Committee.

**Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative (CEPI)** – The representative of the Municipality of the County of Inverness must be the Warden - Warden Cranton.

**Cape Breton Partnership Regional Enterprise Network** - Recommendation by Councillor MacLennan that Deputy Warden MacIsaac participate in the Cape Breton Partnership Regional Enterprise Network

**Cape Breton Local Immigration Network** - Recommendation by Deputy Warden MacIsaac that Councillor Chisholm participate in Cape Breton Local Immigration Network

**Regional Police Advisory Board** – Recommendation made by Councillor Chisholm that Deputy Warden MacIsaac and Councillor MacLennan participate in the Regional Police Advisory Board.

**Strait Area Transit** - Recommendation by Deputy Warden MacIsaac that Warden Cranton and Councillor Gillis Participate in the Strait Area Transit Board.

**Municipal Housing Corporation** - Recommendation made by Councillor MacLennan that Deputy Warden MacIsaac, Councillor Poirier, Councillor Gillis, and Warden Cranton participate in the Municipal Housing Corporation Board.

## **2021 TAX SALE**

Director of Finance, Tanya Tibbo, explained the process by which a property is listed for sale at a public auction. With the COVID-19 pandemic, the suggestion was made that the tender process be utilized for a tax sale.

## **COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Melanie Beaton, Special Projects Facilitator, provided an overview of the Community Grants Program, and the current balance per district in the Community Development Capital Grant and the Discretionary Grant.

**WHYCOCOMAGH CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE** – Stackable Washer and Dryer

Recommendation to Council to approve funding the Whycocomagh Child Development Centre for 50%, or \$1,075.22 out of District # 4's CDC budget.

CRANTON CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CENTRE – Community Cider Press

Recommendation to Council to approve funding the Cranton Crossroads Community Centre in the amount of \$2,000.00 out of District # 2's CDC budget.

CAPE MABOU TRAILS CLUB – Opening Up the Past

Recommendation to Council to approve funding the Cape Mabou Trails Club in the amount of \$2,357.50 out of District # 5's CDC Budget.

## **J CLASS ROAD SUBMISSION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL**

Council was reminded of the November 30, 2020 deadline to submit the J Class Road Submission List for the 2021-2022 construction season.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Eastern District Planning Commission statistics for October 2020 were presented to Council.
- A request for a letter of support was received from the Glendale and Area Community Cooperative New Horizons Seniors Project. Recommendation to Council to write a letter of support toward this venture.

## **NEXT MEETING DATE**

Regular Monthly Council: December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

## **1:30 pm – 1:40 pm – RECESS**

**MOVED:** Deputy Warden Maclsaac  
**SECONDED:** Councillor Gillis  
**MOTION:** That Council move to "in camera" at 1:40 pm

The purpose of moving "in camera" was to discuss matters relating to (1) acquisition, sale, lease and security of municipal property; and (2) setting a minimum price to be accepted by the municipality at a tax sale.

**MOVED:** Councillor MacLennan  
**SECONDED:** Councillor Maclsaac  
**MOTION:** That Council move out of "in camera" at 2:06 pm

Recommendation to Council made by Deputy Warden MacIsaac that due to the COVID-19 pandemic and current Nova Scotia State of Emergency, the Municipality call for tenders for property rather than put the property up for sale at public auction, pursuant to section 141 (2) of the *Municipal Government Act*. The closing date for tender shall be February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 2:00 pm AST.

Recommendation to Council made by Councillor Poirier that AAN 02852748 be placed for sale by tender pursuant to Section 141 of the *Municipal Government Act*.

Recommendation to Council made by Councillor MacLennan that AAN 02845385 be placed for sale by tender with a minimum bid of \$2500.00 pursuant to Sections 141 (2) and Section 141 (3) of the *Municipal Government Act*.

Recommendation to Council made by Councillor Chisholm that AAN 01966367 be placed for sale by tender with a minimum bid of \$400.00 pursuant to Sections 141 (2) and Section 141 (3) of the *Municipal Government Act*.

Recommendation to Council made by Councillor Chisholm that AAN 03855538 be placed for sale by tender with a minimum bid of \$250 pursuant to Sections 141 (2) and Section 141 (3) of the *Municipal Government Act*.

Recommendation to Council made by Councillor MacLennan that AAN 05727111 be placed for sale by tender with a minimum bid of \$5,000 pursuant to Sections 141 (2) and Section 141 (3) of the *Municipal Government Act*.

Recommendation to Council made by that AAN 00587168 be placed for sale by tender with a minimum bid of \$1,500 pursuant to Sections 141 (2) and Section 141 (3) of the *Municipal Government Act*.

Recommendation to Council made by Councillor Poirier that AAN 00372415 be placed for sale by tender with a minimum bid of \$500 pursuant to Sections 141 (2) and Section 141 (3) of the *Municipal Government Act*.

Recommendation to Council made by Councillor Poirier that AAN 02676303 be placed for sale by tender with a minimum bid of \$7,500 pursuant to Sections 141 (2) and Section 141 (3) of the *Municipal Government Act*.

Recommendation to Council made by Deputy Warden MacIsaac that AAN 00152366 be placed for sale by tender with a minimum bid of \$2,500 pursuant to Sections 141 (2) and Section 141 (3) of the *Municipal Government Act*.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED:** Deputy Warden MacIsaac

**SECONDED:** Councillor Chisholm  
**MOTION:** That Council adjourn at 2:12 pm  
**MOTION CARRIED**