

Municipality of the County of Inverness
Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, November 12th, 2020
1:30 pm
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
 Christine Murray, Manager of Legal and Governance
 Debbie Nicholson, Administrative Assistant to Council
 Melanie Beaton, Special Projects Facilitator
 Charlotte MacDonald, Manager of Recreation

Warden Cranton called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm and welcomed all in attendance. Roll call was taken. Acknowledgement was made that the land on which we gather is located in the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

INTRODUCTION OF MEETING PROCEDURES

Warden Cranton provided Council with a procedure going forward regarding dealing with agenda items. Each Councillor will be given an opportunity to speak to an issue prior to any motions or decision being made.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councillor Poirier asked that the amber lights request for a Cheticamp intersection be added to the agenda. Consensus to add this item to Business Arising.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED: Councillor MacLennan

SECONDED: Councillor Gillis

MOTION: That the Regular Council minutes of October 1st, 2020 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

MOVED: Councillor MacLennan
SECONDED: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
MOTION: That the Committee of the Whole minutes of October 15th, 2020 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

MOVED: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
SECONDED: Councillor Chisholm
MOTION: That the Special Council minutes of November 5th, 2020 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING

Municipal Staff have been in contact with representatives from Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR). A report is anticipated from them regarding the status of the Cheticamp street light request. A meeting with Council and TIR reps would be ideal prior to an upcoming meeting of Council.

2021 J CLASS ROAD PROGRAM

Council was provided with a list of J Class Roads within the Municipality. CAO MacDonald informed Council of the procedure involved with these roads receiving upgrades. Councillors with J Class Roads in their district will be asked to submit their priority roads. The complete list will in turn be submitted to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal for consideration.

FIRST READING: AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAW 30: CAPITAL COST OF WATER AND SEWER

Director of Finance Tanya Tibbo addressed Council, and provided an overview of the costs associated with the water and sewer extension provided to the residents of Silverwood Lane, Inverness. The frontage rate is set at \$47.77 per lineal foot.

MOVED: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan
MOTION: That Council approve First Reading of the Amendment to By-Law 30: 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.

MOTION CARRIED

UPDATE: WHYCOCOMAGH LIFT STATION PROJECT

Melanie Beaton provided an update to Council. Currently in the village of Whycomomagh, a panel at Lift Station # 4 must be replaced immediately due to significant deterioration and safety concerns. Installation will include the new control panel, complete with explosion proof fittings, junction boxes, wiring and sealing compound. The estimated project cost is \$35,543.05.

MOVED: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
SECONDED: Councillor Gillis
MOTION: That Council approve funding the replacement of the lift station panel at Whycomomagh Lift Station # 4 with an estimated project cost of \$35,543.05 to be allocated from the annual lift station budget.

MOTION CARRIED

UPDATE: RECAPITALIZATION OF CENTRAL AVENUE, INVERNESS

Melanie Beaton provided an update to Council. In 2019, Dillon Consulting completed an assessment of existing water and wastewater infrastructure within the Municipality. The general condition of the linear infrastructure within the village of Inverness has been rated as very poor, indicating that it is physically unsound, unreliable, and has reached or exceeded its useful life. The estimated 10 year Investment Cost for the village of Inverness is \$42.6 Million, representing 41.3 % of the estimated asset replacement value.

MOVED: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
SECONDED: Councillor Chisholm
MOTION: That Council approve funding \$165,664.00 for the Detailed Design of Linear Infrastructure Replacement along Highway 19 and Central Avenue Inverness with funds coming from the Capital Reserves.

MOTION CARRIED

MONTHLY RENTAL ALLOWANCE FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS

Each Municipal Councillor has the ability to use rental office space. The 2017-2018 budget is when this came into place. When office spaces were looked at by Councillors, they were asked to consider non-profit operated spaces. A maximum allowance of \$250.00 per month was made available. Councillor Poirier asked if this funding allowance could be issued to a non-profit organization in the event that the Councillor does not rent office space. Further information will be gathered from the Municipal Government Act to determine if the funding can in fact go to a non-profit organization. This item will be part of the Municipal Policy Review.

RECOMMENDATIONS

COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION: L'ACABIE FUNDING

MOVED: Councillor Gillis
SECONDED: Councillor Poirier
MOTION: That Council fund this request in the amount of \$5,000.00 out of District # 1's CDC budget contingent on receipt of provincial funding and that Council fund this request in the amount of \$5,000.00 out of District # 2's CDC budget

contingent on receipt of provincial funding.

MOTION CARRIED

REVIEW OF PUBLIC TRANSIT IN INVERNESS COUNTY

MOVED: Councillor MacLennan

SECONDED: Deputy Warden MacIsaac

MOTION: That Public Transit in Inverness County as a whole be reviewed.

MOTION CARRIED

INVERNESS VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE FUNDING

MOVED: Councillor Poirier

SECONDED: Deputy Warden MacIsaac

MOTION: That Council fund \$8,000.00 from the Tourism and Culture 2020-2021 budget to cover funds owing the Inverness Development Association.

MOTION CARRIED

LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS: Most Active County Challenge Winner, Digby County

MOVED: Councillor Chisholm

SECONDED: Councillor Gillis

MOTION: That a letter of congratulations will be sent to Digby County from the Municipality of the County of Inverness on the occasion of this win.

MOTION CARRIED

LETTER OF SUPPORT RE: TOURISM OPERATORS

MOVED: Councillor MacLennan

SECONDED: Deputy Warden MacIsaac

MOTION: That letters be written to the following:

1. Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland and Members of Parliament Mike Kelloway and Jaime Battiste 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.

MOTION CARRIED

MINIMUM PRICE FOR TAX SALE: PID 50101385

MOVED: Councillor MacLennan

SECONDED: Councillor Chisholm

MOTION: That the minimum bid for this property be \$4537.30.

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

Le Club des Retraites de Cheticamp

A letter was received from the President of Le Club des Retraites de Cheticamp due to the fact that it was not used as a polling station at the October 17th election, despite having been asked to be used as a polling station in the Spring of 2020. In an oversight, the Municipality did not inform the Club that the facility was not to be used as a polling station. Payment will be issued to Le Club des Retraites de Cheticamp for the facility rental.

Water Utility Customer

Councillor Gillis excused herself from this discussion due to a conflict of interest. Councillor Gillis identified the nature of the conflict of interest: the water utility customer is a private client of Councillor Gillis.

Councillor Gillis left Council Chambers at 3:42 pm.

A seasonal resident living in Port Hood had her water meter freeze due to lack of a work order being issued to turn off her water at the end of the 2019. She was charged with the replacement of the water meter that froze. She insists that she left a message for the water to be turned off. There is no record of this request.

MOVED: Councillor MacLennan

SECONDED: Councillor Chisholm

MOTION: That this water utility customer be re-issued the bill for the water meter after an additional review of the situation.

MOTION CARRIED

Councillor Gillis returned to Council Chambers at 3:44 pm

Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association

Correspondence was received from the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association asking for support from the Municipality during its 10th Anniversary Year.

MOVED: Deputy Warden Maclsaac

SECONDED: Councillor Gillis

MOTION: That a letter of support be granted to the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Association.

MOTION CARRIED

FIRST READING: CHETICAMP CAMPGROUND AMENDMENT

Correspondence was received from the Eastern District Planning Commission regarding the proposed amendment to the Cheticamp Municipal Strategy and Land Use By-Law to remove campgrounds as a permitted use.

MOVED: Councillor MacLennan

SECONDED: Councillor Chisholm

MOTION: That Council approve First Reading of the proposed amendment to the Cheticamp Municipal Strategy and Land Use By-Law to remove campgrounds as a permitted use.

MOTION CARRIED

TIMING FOR REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS

Currently there is a Policy in place regarding the start time for a Regular meeting, which can be modified by Council. Pros and cons for later meeting times were discussed. Consensus to remain with the same meeting schedule for the remainder of 2020 and to revisit this issue in the New Year.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Committee of the Whole: November 19th, 2020 9:30 am

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED: Councillor MacLennan

MOTION: That Council adjourn at 4:14 pm

MOTION CARRIED