

Municipality of the County of Inverness
Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, December 3rd, 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
 Christine Murray, Manager of Legal and Governance
 Debbie Nicholson, Administrative Assistant to Council
 Melanie Beaton, Special Projects Facilitator

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. Acknowledgement was made for today being the International Day for Persons with Disabilities.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: Deputy Warden MacIsaac
SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan
MOTION: That the Agenda be approved with the following amendments:
 Cheticamp Land Use By-Law, Possible Canso Causeway closure, and
 Municipal Hospital Auxiliary contributions.

MOTION CARRIED

MOVED: Councillor MacLennan
SECONDED: Councillor Chisholm
MOTION: That the Regular Council minutes of November 12th, 2020 be
 approved.

MOTION CARRIED

MOVED: Deputy Warden MacIsaac
SECONDED: Councillor Gillis
MOTION: That the Committee of the Whole minutes of November 19th, 2020 be
 approved.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING

CHETICAMP LAND USE BY-LAW PUBLIC HEARING

After the last Council meeting, staff sought different locations in Cheticamp that were accessible, and that could accommodate at least 40 people for the date of December 17th, keeping in mind social distancing regulations. No adequate location was found for that date.

Recommendation that Municipal staff will reach out to the Eastern District Planning Commission to seek direction on how to host a Public Hearing during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

CAUSEWAY CLOSURE

Warden Cranton was informed last week of a possible meeting regarding the potential closure of the Canso Causeway during the COVID-19 Pandemic. A full gathering of area Wardens and Mayors to discuss this issue never occurred. Consensus that a closure of the Canso Causeway due to COVID-19 is not an idea Council wishes to support at this time.

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.

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

MOVED: Deputy Warden MacIsaac
SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan
MOTION: That the Amendment to By-Law 30: Capital Cost of Water and Sewer Section 14 (m), which reads "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" be given Second Reading.

MOTION CARRIED

HOSPITAL AUXILIARY APPLICATION

A letter was received from the Inverness Hospital Auxiliary requesting funding from the Municipality, since they cannot fund raise as usual due to COVID-19.

Recommendation to staff that both Municipal Hospital Auxiliaries (Inverness and Cheticamp) will be contacted, and provided direction on the application for funds process.

PRESENTATION: JUDIQUÉ INTERNET

The Better Internet for Inverness County Team presented to Council. Bill Murphy spoke on behalf of the group. This group is composed of seven citizens committed to engaging all political levels and Develop NS and draw attention to the lack of adequate connectivity within many parts the County.

COUNCIL MEETINGS DURING COVID

Council has been following updates on the second wave of the COVID-19 Pandemic. During the initial wave of COVID-19, Council Meetings were held remotely, and online. There is consensus among Council that if COVID-19 cases continue to rise after Christmas, and especially locally, that consideration will be given to reverting back to an online meeting format.

MONTHLY RENTAL ALLOWANCE FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS

At the Policy Committee meeting held on March 13th, 2017, a motion was passed regarding monthly rental allowance for office use by a Councillor. The Minutes from that Meeting, regarding this issue, state:

A Municipal Councillor may wish to retain an accessible office space in their District to support their role and responsibility in serving their constituents and organizations. If the office space is provided through a not-for-profit organization, the Municipality will provide an annual contribution to cover the overhead of the office space. The amount will not exceed \$250 a month. This amount will be paid quarterly directly to the organization

The motion does not allow the rental allowance to be transferred to a non-profit that is not providing rental space. It is up to Council to change this policy if Council desires. Expense and Hospitality policies must be reviewed by Council by January 31st, 2021. There was a consensus among Council to review this issue once this Policy review is underway.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2021 TAX SALE VIA TENDER

MOVED: Councillor MacLennan
SECONDED: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
MOTION: That due to the COVID-19 pandemic and current Nova Scotia State of Emergency, the Municipality call for tenders for property tax sales rather than put the properties up for sale at public auction, pursuant to section 141 (2) of the Municipal Government Act. The closing date for tender shall be February 5th, 2021 at 2:00 pm AST.

MOTION CARRIED

AAN 02852748

MOVED: Councillor MacLennan
SECONDED: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
MOTION: That AAN 02852748 be placed for sale by tender pursuant to Section 141 of the Municipal Government Act.

MOTION CARRIED

AAN 02845385

MOVED: Deputy Warden Maclsaac

SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan
MOTION: 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.

MOTION CARRIED

AAN 01966367

MOVED: Councillor Gillis
SECONDED: Councillor Chisholm
MOTION: 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.

MOTION CARRIED

AAN 03855538

MOVED: Councillor Chisholm
SECONDED: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
MOTION: That AAN 03855538 be placed for sale by tender with a minimum bid of \$250.00 pursuant to Sections 141 (2) and Section 141 (3) of the Municipal Government Act.

MOTION CARRIED

AAN 05727111

MOVED: Councillor Poirier
SECONDED: Councillor Gillis
MOTION: That AAN 05727111 be placed for sale by tender with a minimum bid of \$5000.00 pursuant to Sections 141 (2) and Section 141 (3) of the Municipal Government Act.

MOTION CARRIED

AAN 00587168

MOVED: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
SECONDED: Councillor Poirier
MOTION: That AAN 00587168 be placed for sale by tender with a minimum bid of \$1500.00 pursuant to Sections 141 (2) and Section 141 (3) of the Municipal Government Act.

MOTION CARRIED

AAN 00372412

MOVED: Councillor Gillis
SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan

MOTION: That AAN 00372412 be placed for sale by tender with a minimum bid of \$500.00 pursuant to Sections 141 (2) and Section 141 (3) of the Municipal Government Act.

MOTION CARRIED

AAN 02676303

MOVED: Councillor Chisholm

SECONDED: Councillor Gillis

MOTION: That AAN 02676303 be placed for sale by tender with a minimum bid of \$7,500.00 pursuant to Sections 141 (2) and Section 141 (3) of the Municipal Government Act.

MOTION CARRIED

AAN 00152366

MOVED: Councillor MacLennan

SECONDED: Deputy Warden Maclsaac

MOTION: That AAN 00152366 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.

MOTION CARRIED

DEMOLITION ORDER: 16 & 18 BEATON ST., INVERNESS

MOVED: Councillor Poirier

SECONDED: Councillor Gillis

MOTION: That a demolition order be issued for this property

MOTION CARRIED

DEMOLITION ORDER: 3972 HWY 19, LONG POINT

MOVED: Deputy Warden Maclsaac

SECONDED: Councillor Chisholm

MOTION: That a demolition order be issued for this property

MOTION CARRIED

DEMOLITION ORDER: 15867 CENTRAL AVE., INVERNESS

MOVED: Councillor Gillis

SECONDED: Deputy Warden Maclsaac

MOTION: That a demolition order be issued for this property

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE: AUDIT COMMITTEE

MOVED: Councillor Chisholm

SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan

MOTION: That Deputy Warden Maclsaac and Councillor Gillis participate in the Audit Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE: PLANNING AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MOVED: Deputy Warden MacIsaac

SECONDED: Councillor Poirier

MOTION: That all Municipal Councillors participate in the Planning and Advisory Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE: ALLAN J MACEACHEN AIRPORT COMMITTEE

MOVED: Councillor MacLennan

SECONDED: Deputy Warden MacIsaac

MOTION: That Councillor Gillis and Councillor Chisholm participate in the Audit Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE: EASTERN DISTRICT PLANNING COMMITTEE

MOVED: Councillor Gillis

SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan

MOTION: That Warden Cranton and Councillor Poirier participate in the Eastern District Planning Commission Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE: EASTERN COUNTIES REGIONAL LIBRARY COMMITTEE

MOVED: Deputy Warden MacIsaac

SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan

MOTION: That Councillor Poirier participate in the Eastern Counties Regional Library Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE: BRAS D'OR LAKE BIOSPHERE RESERVE COMMITTEE

MOVED: Councillor Chisholm

SECONDED: Councillor Gillis

MOTION: That Councillor MacLennan participate in the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Reserve Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE: CAPE BRETON PARTNERSHIP REGIONAL ENTERPRISE NETWORK

MOVED: Councillor Poirier

SECONDED: Councillor Chisholm

MOTION: That Deputy Warden MacIsaac participate in the Cape Breton Partnership Regional Enterprise Network

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE: CAPE BRETON LOCAL IMMIGRATION NETWORK

MOVED: Councillor Gillis

SECONDED: Deputy Warden Maclsaac

MOTION: That Councillor Chisholm participate in Cape Breton Local Immigration Network.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE: REGIONAL POLICE ADVISORY BOARD

MOVED: Councillor Chisholm

SECONDED: Councillor Poirier

MOTION: That Deputy Warden Maclsaac and Councillor MacLennan participate in the Regional Police Advisory Board.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE: STRAIT AREA TRANSIT

MOVED: Councillor Gillis

SECONDED: Councillor Poirier

MOTION: That Warden Cranton and Councillor MacLennan participate in the Strait Area Transit Board.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE: MUNICIPAL HOUSING CORPORATION

MOVED: Councillor Chisholm

SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan

MOTION: That Deputy Warden Maclsaac, Councillor Poirier, Councillor Gillis, and Warden Cranton participate in the Municipal Housing Corporation Board.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION: WHYCOCOMAGH CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

MOVED: Deputy Warden Maclsaac

SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan

MOTION: That Council approve funding the Whycomomagh Child Development Centre stackable washer and dryer for 50%, or \$1,075.22 out of District # 4's CDC budget.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION: CRANTON CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CENTRE

MOVED: Councillor Gillis

SECONDED: Councillor Poirier

MOTION: That Council approve funding the Cranton Crossroads Community Centre Community Cider Press in the amount of \$2,000.00 out of District # 2's CDC budget.

MOTION CARRIED

COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION: CAPE MABOU TRAILS CLUB

MOVED: Councillor MacLennan

SECONDED: Councillor Gillis

MOTION: That Council approve funding the Cape Mabou Trails Club Opening up the Past Project in the amount of \$2,357.50 out of District # 5's CDC Budget.

MOTION CARRIED

LETTER OF SUPPORT: GLENDALE AND AREA COMMUNITY COOPERATIVE

MOVED: Councillor Chisholm

SECONDED: Councillor Gillis

MOTION: That a letter of support be issued to the Glendale and Area Community Cooperative New Horizons Seniors Project.

MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Council Information Session: December 15th, 2020 9:30 am

Committee of the Whole: December 17th, 2020 9:30 am

IN CAMERA

The purpose for the "in camera" sessions at this Meeting were to discuss matters relating to:

- a) Contract Negotiations
- b) Personnel Matters

MOVED: Deputy Warden MacIsaac

SECONDED: Councillor Chisholm

MOTION: That Council move to "In Camera" at 3:21 pm

MOTION CARRIED

MOVED: Deputy Warden MacIsaac

SECONDED: Councillor Poirier

MOTION: That Council move back to Regular Council at 3:33 pm

MOTION CARRIED

UPDATE: DEVELOP NS

Deborah Page and Leanne Jennings presented to Council via Zoom.

Develop NS is a Crown Corporation of the Provincial Government focused on Economic Development. They have the responsibility of improving Rural Internet. Their objective is to reach 95% of Nova Scotia Homes and Businesses with High Speed Internet access, and as close

to 100% as possible. Their latest Request for Proposals closed in June of 2020, and these “Round 2” projects were announced in August 2020. Successful solutions must meet or exceed provincial speed targets of 50 Mbps for wired connections and 25 Mbps for wireless and all solutions must be designed to keep pace with changing technology. Develop NS continues to work with multiple Internet Service Providers to further scope expansions.

IN CAMERA (part 2)

MOVED: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan
MOTION: That Council move to “In Camera” at 4:22 pm
MOTION CARRIED

MOVED: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
SECONDED: Councillor Gillis
MOTION: That Council move back to Regular Council at 4:33 pm
MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED: Councillor Poirier
MOTION: That Council adjourn at 4:33 pm
MOTION CARRIED