

**Municipality of the County of Inverness
Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, March 4th, 2021
5:00 pm
Council Chambers**

Council: Warden Laurie Cranton
Deputy Warden Bonny Maclsaac
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
Charlotte MacDonald, Manager of Recreation
Donna MacDonald, Director of Tourism and Culture
Karolyn Aucoin, Communications and Community Engagement Specialist

Warden Cranton called the meeting to order at 5:00 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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
SECONDED: Councillor Gillis
MOTION: That the agenda be approved as amended: the addition of the following item under "Correspondence" which is time-sensitive: letter of support request from the Cheticamp Legion for a nomination for Chester Muise to receive the Order of Nova Scotia.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
SECONDED: Councillor Poirier
MOTION: That the Regular Council minutes of February 4th, 2021 be approved.
MOTION CARRIED

MOVED: Councillor MacLennan
SECONDED: Councillor Chisholm
MOTION: That the Committee of the Whole minutes of February 18th, 2021 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

SECOND READING: REMOVAL OF CAMPGROUNDS AS A PERMITTED USE WITHIN THE RESIDENTIAL RURAL (RR-1) ZONE THROUGHOUT THE CHÉTICAMP PLAN BY AMENDING THE CHÉTICAMP MUNICIPAL PLANNING STRATEGY AND THE CHÉTICAMP LAND USE BY-LAW

MOVED: Councillor Poirier
SECONDED: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
MOTION: That Council consider all the submissions that Council has heard and received on this proposed amendment.

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion followed regarding the submissions Council heard and received on this proposed amendment. Warden Cranton then asked if there was a motion to approve second reading of the amendments to both the “Chéticamp Municipal Planning Strategy” and the “Chéticamp Land Use By-law. After the Warden asked for a second and third time if there was such a motion, no motion was made. Discussion on the matter was closed and the proposed amendments were not approved for second reading nor adopted.

NOTICE OF MOTION: AMENDED SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE POLICY

Council was provided with an amended Sidewalk Maintenance Policy in their Council package.

MOVED: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
SECONDED: Councillor Chisholm
MOTION: That Council recommend the amended Sidewalk Maintenance Policy for approval at the upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

MUNICIPAL POLICING PRIORITIES

Council was asked to provide policing priorities at the last Committee of the Whole meeting. These priorities will in turn be brought to the attention of the RCMP.

The priorities brought forward include:

- Reducing speeding in all 6 districts, particularly in the area surrounding the intersection of Route 19 and the Cabot Trail in Margaree Forks as well as the West Bay and West Bay Road areas.
- Reducing cell phone use while driving.
- Reducing intoxicated driving, particularly in the community of Inverness.
- Improving the safety habits of young drivers.

TWO BILLION TREES: REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION (RIF) AND EXPRESSIONS OF INTERESTS (EOI)

Correspondence was provided to Council in their Council package from the Federal Government regarding the Growing Canada's Forest program. Natural Resources Canada is looking to engage those interested in growing Canada's forests as a nature-based solution to support national climate change actions. Consensus from Council to request additional information on this initiative through a Request for Information (RFI) Process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

PORT HOOD & DISTRICT RECREATION COMMISSION: REPAINTING AND LIGHTING UPGRADES

MOVED: Councillor Gillis
SECONDED: Councillor Chisholm
MOTION: That Council fund this \$10,000.00 request in full in the following manner:
District # 5 CDG - \$492.50
District # 5 Discretionary - \$3500.00
District # 6 CDG - \$3992.50
Recreation Facility Grant - \$2015.00

MOTION CARRIED

CHETICAMP AMBER LIGHT

MOVED: Councillor Poirier
SECONDED: Deputy Warden MacIsaac
MOTION: That a letter be written to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal requesting that an amber light be installed at this location (on the Cabot Trail near the Post Office).

MOTION CARRIED

MEETING INVITATION: NSTIR REPRESENTATIVE RE: PORT HASTINGS ROTARY

MOVED: Councillor Gillis
SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan
MOTION: That representatives from the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal be invited to a meeting of Council to outline the proposed changes at the Port Hastings Rotary.

MOTION CARRIED

MEETING INVITATION: GFL RE: LEVELS OF SERVICE

MOVED: Councillor Gillis
SECONDED: Deputy Warden MacIsaac
MOTION: That representatives from GFL (Green For Life) be invited to an upcoming meeting of Council to discuss the service they are providing.

MOTION CARRIED

IT UPGRADES: CLOUD BASED SERVER

MOVED: Deputy Warden MacIsaac

SECONDED: Councillor Chisholm

MOTION: That Council approve funding for the Municipality's IT upgrades to a cloud based server with funding coming from the COVID Safe Restart Funding (to a maximum of \$15,000.00)

MOTION CARRIED

CHARITABLE EXEMPTION: WHYCOCOMAGH DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MOVED: Councillor MacLennan

SECONDED: Councillor Poirier

MOTION: That the former Ralph's Dairy property in Whycomagh, identified as Assessment Account Number 02249103, which is currently owned by the Whycomagh Development Commission, be exempt from taxation as a charitable exemption, pursuant to Section 71 of the *Municipal Government Act*. Area rates and fire protection rates still apply to this property.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF PUBLIC APPOINTMENT POLICY – *Upon Staff recommendation Council will revisit this agenda item later in today's meeting once Council has had time to review the Policy.*

CORRESPONDENCE

LETTER OF SUPPORT: Warden Cranton received a request from the Chéticamp Legion regarding a letter of support toward a nomination for Chester Muise to receive the Order of Nova Scotia.

MOVED: Councillor Poirier

SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan

MOTION: That Council issue a letter of support toward a nomination of Mr. Chester Muise for the Order of Nova Scotia.

MOTION CARRIED

CAPE BRETON CREATIVE SECTOR TEAM: Director of Tourism and Culture Donna MacDonald was speaking with a team member of the Cape Breton Creative Sector Team who indicated an online Zoom call between the Creative Sector Team and a representative from each of the Cape Breton Municipalities may be appropriate in this instance. A letter of support will also be written to the Cape Breton Creative Sector Team.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Committee of the Whole: March 18th, 2021 9:30 am

Regular Meeting of Council: April 1st, 2021 3:00 pm

RECESS

MOVED: Deputy Warden MacIsaac
SECONDED: Warden Cranton
MOTION: That Council recess at 6:06 pm
MOTION CARRIED

Council resumed at 6:25 pm

PRESENTATION: COMMUNITY WELCOME GROUPS; *Donna MacDonald, Linda MacMillan, Councillor Chisholm*

The Newcomer Network is an initiative of the Cape Breton Partnership and funded by the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration. It was launched in 2020 and is designed to support Cape Breton communities in supporting new residents. Approximately 50 volunteers make up the network. Current communities participating include Chéticamp, Port Hood, Judique, St. Peter's, and CBRM. More information can be found at <https://welcometocapebreton.ca/welcomenetwork>.

APPROVAL OF PUBLIC APPOINTMENT POLICY

MOVED: Deputy Warden MacIsaac
SECONDED: Councillor Gillis
MOTION: That Council adopt the Public Appointment Policy as presented.
MOTION CARRIED

RECESS

MOVED: Deputy Warden MacIsaac
SECONDED: Councillor MacLennan
MOTION: That Council recess at 6:39 pm
MOTION CARRIED

Council resumed at 6:48 pm

PRESENTATION: CAPE BRETON SOUTH RECRUITING FOR HEALTH; *Trevor Boudreau, Maggie MacDonald*

Cape Breton South Recruiting for Health is a community led organization that serves the Cape Breton South region (The Town of Port Hawkesbury and Richmond County). Their focus is on the recruitment and retention of healthcare professionals and better access to healthcare services for our community members. Recent initiatives of the organization include participation in DAL Family Medicine online conferences and job fairs to promote the Cape Breton South region, building professional working relationships with Nova Scotia Health, other Navigators across the province, the local Strait Richmond Hospital Foundation board, and many others. They have hosted and supported locum physicians and other various healthcare professionals and welcomed new professionals to the area. Additional information can be found at: www.capebretonrecruiting.com.

PRESENTATION: STRAIT AREA MUTUAL AID; *Jim Cavanaugh*

The Strait Area Mutual Aid Association was formed in 1976 by nine area Fire Departments. Their mission is continuous improvements to Fire and Emergency Services in the Strait Area. Their current membership 28 Departments from Richmond, Inverness, Guysborough and Antigonish Counties, the Town of Port Hawkesbury, the Town of Antigonish and the Town of Mulgrave. The Mutual Aid Agreement enables neighboring fire departments to respond to other coverage areas when requested, sharing resources, and equipment. Municipal support to the Strait Area Mutual Aid Association could enhance pagers, dry hydrants, and shared fire service equipment.

PRESENTATION: RAISING THE VILLAGES; *Jim Mustard*

The Early Years Cooperative strives to raise awareness and understanding of why the early years is the #1 upstream investment for our life-long health (physical and mental), learning, and relationships. Their objectives are to provide the networking, connecting, communicating, and advocacy for regional services, programs, and policies that provide universal access and integration from the pre-natal period onwards. Through the use of data and evidence (EDI) they hope to strengthen community-based decision making, advocacy, and inform supportive upstream policy direction.

IN CAMERA

The purpose for the “in camera” session at today’s meeting was to discuss matters related to:

- a) Legal advice eligible for solicitor-client privilege; and
- b) Personnel matters.

MOVED: Councillor Gillis
SECONDED: Deputy Warden MacIsaac
MOTION: That Council go to “In Camera” at 8:17 pm
MOTION CARRIED

MOVED: Councillor Poirier
SECONDED: Deputy Warden MacIsaac
MOTION: That Council go back to Regular Council at 8:37 pm
MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED: Deputy Warden MacIsaac
MOTION: That Council adjourn at 8:37 pm
MOTION CARRIED