

Municipality of the County of Inverness
Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, April 1st, 2021
3:00 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
 Erin Gillis, Manager, Operations & Occupational Health and Safety
 Charlotte MacDonald, Manager of Recreation
 Donna MacDonald, Director of Tourism and Culture
 Karolyn Aucoin, Communications and Community Engagement Specialist
 Ellen Murphy, Manager of Infrastructure

Warden Cranton called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm and welcomed all in attendance. Roll call was taken.

Acknowledgement was made regarding the recent passing of Calum MacQuarrie of Inverness. Calum was a strong supporter of improving accessibility throughout the Municipality, most notably at the Inverness Beach.

Acknowledgement was made that the land on which we gather is located in the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: *That the Regular Council Meeting minutes of March 4th, 2021 be approved as presented.*
MOVED BY: Councillor MacLennan
SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier
MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: *That the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of March 18th, 2021 be approved as presented.*
MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
SECONDED BY: Councillor MacLennan
MOTION CARRIED

3. UPDATE: SPRING 2021 HEAVY GARBAGE PICK-UP

A Request for Proposals was drafted yesterday for the Spring 2021 Heavy Garbage Pick-up. Possible dates for the Spring 2021 Heavy Garbage Pick-Up were discussed. A solid waste information session is planned for Council after Budget meetings conclude.

MOTION: *That Council authorize and approve a heavy garbage pick-up for the Spring of 2021, which shall take place across the Municipality of the County of Inverness between May 17, 2021 and June 4, 2021.*
MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
SECONDED BY: Councillor MacLennan
MOTION CARRIED

4. REVISED SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE POLICY

Deputy Warden Maclsaac requested a presentation on the maintenance of Municipal sidewalks at the next Committee of the Whole Meeting to be provided by the Manager of Infrastructure, Ellen Murphy. The Manager of Infrastructure will present on this issue at the next Committee of the Whole Meeting.

MOTION: *That Council adopt the revised Sidewalk Maintenance Policy as presented in the Council Package for this meeting.*
MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis
SECONDED BY: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
MOTION CARRIED

5. BELL CANADA – LETTER IN REGARD TO LAND LINE OUTAGES

Consensus for Council to provide a letter to Mirko Bibic, President and CEO, BCE and Bell Canada, as presented at this meeting, to be signed by the Warden, with a copy to Gordon M. Nixon, Chair of the Board, BCE Inc. and Bell Canada.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) VALLEY MILLS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT LOAN GUARANTEE

MOTION: *WHEREAS the Valley Mills Volunteer Fire Department is registered with the Municipality of the County of Inverness;*

AND WHEREAS the Valley Mills Volunteer Fire Department has determined to borrow the aggregate principal amount of not more than Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the purpose of purchasing a pumper truck;

AND WHEREAS the Valley Mills Volunteer Fire Department has requested a municipality to guarantee the said borrowing;

AND WHEREAS Section 294(6) of the Municipal Government Act provides that a municipality may grant or lend money to, or guarantee a loan for, a registered fire department for operating or capital purposes;

AND WHEREAS Section 88(3) of the Municipal Government Act provides that no guarantee of a borrowing by a municipality shall have effect unless the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has approved of the proposed borrowing or debenture and of the proposed guarantee;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED

THAT the Municipality of the County of Inverness does hereby approve the borrowing by the Valley Mills Volunteer Fire Department of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the purposes set out above;

THAT subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing of the guarantee, the Municipality unconditionally guarantee repayment of the principal and interest of the borrowing so made;

THAT upon the issue of the debentures, the Warden and CAO of the Municipality do sign the guarantee attached to each of the debentures and affix thereto the corporate seal of the Municipality.

MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis
SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier
MOTION CARRIED

(b) MUNICIPAL GENERATOR FENCING

MOTION: *That Council approve generator fencing expenditures in the amount of*

\$6,267.50 for the Broad Cove Banks Road location and \$6,095.00 for the 15488 Route 19 location.

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
SECONDED BY: Councillor Gillis
MOTION CARRIED

(c) GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION IN INVERNESS

MOTION: *That Council authorize and approve the Geotechnical Investigation in Inverness with a budget of \$105,336.30, whereby \$38,824.00 of the budget is allocated towards Q-Drilling for clearances, drilling and traffic control, and \$56,936.27 of the budget is allocated towards EXP for Geotechnical and Hydrogeology Services, with funds coming from the Gas Tax.*

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
SECONDED BY: Councillor Gillis
MOTION CARRIED

(d) PERSONNEL POLICY: ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AND POSSIBLE EXPOSURES

MOTION: *That Council adopt the Personnel Policy: Attendance for COVID-19 Symptoms and Possible Exposures as presented in Schedule "A" in the Council Package for this meeting.*

MOVED BY: Councillor MacLennan
SECONDED BY: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
MOTION CARRIED

(e) PERSONNEL POLICY: OFFICE AND WORKSITE CLOSURE POLICY

MOTION: *That Council adopt the Personnel Policy: Office and Worksite Closure Policy as presented in the Council Package for this meeting.*

MOVED BY: Councillor MacLennan
SECONDED BY: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
MOTION CARRIED

(f) ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE QUALIFICATIONS FOR PUBLIC MEMBERS

MOTION: *That Council accept and approve the following nine recommended skills/assets and/or qualifications for the four current Accessibility Advisory Committee vacancies:*

1. *Four (4) members of the public must be appointed to the Accessibility Advisory Committee;*

2. *At least three (3) members must be persons with Disabilities or representatives from organizations that represent persons with Disabilities. "Disability" includes a physical, mental, intellectual, learning or sensory impairment, including an episodic disability, that, in interaction with a Barrier, hinders an individual's full and effective participation in society. "Barrier" means anything that hinders or challenges the full and effective participation in society of persons with Disabilities including a physical barrier, an architectural barrier, an information or communications barrier, an attitudinal barrier, a technological barrier, a policy or a practice;*
3. *Two (2) members will be appointed for a term of two (2) years;*
4. *Two (2) members will be appointed for a term of three (3) years;*
5. *All members must be at least 18 years of age;*
6. *All members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee shall serve without pay;*
7. *All members must be a resident of the Municipality of the County of Inverness for at least the last six (6) months before making an application and must continue to be a resident of the Municipality throughout the term of the appointment;*
8. *Members must not be ineligible for an appointment pursuant to the Municipality's Public Appointment Policy; and*
9. *The Accessibility Advisory Committee must meet at least six (6) times per year, or otherwise as needed to fulfill its duties.*

That the deadline to submit applications for the four current Accessibility Advisory Committee vacancies be May 7, 2021.

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
SECONDED BY: Councillor Gillis
MOTION CARRIED

(g) AMENDMENT TO PUBLIC APPOINTMENT POLICY (SECTIONS 7(10) AND 7(18))

MOTION: *That Council amend the Public Appointment Policy as follows:*

1. *By removing "but cannot be appointed to more than one Committee or External Board or Agency at any one time (pursuant to section 6(4) of this Policy)." from Section 7(10); and*
2. *By adding "to" to Section 7(18).*

MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier
SECONDED BY: Councillor MacLennan
MOTION CARRIED

(h) HIGHLAND TRAIL GROOMERS

MOTION: *That Council rescind the original funding request granted to the Highland*

Trail Groomers on February 4th, 2021 in the amount of \$10,000.00.
MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier
SECONDED BY: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
MOTION CARRIED

(i) NORTH INVERNESS RECREATION CENTRE ASSOCIATION

MOTION: *That Council fund the request of North Inverness Recreation Centre Association in the amount of \$27,932.71 in full, in the following manner:
District # 1 CDC - \$9,250.00
District # 1 Discretionary - \$3,500.00
Recreation Facility - \$15,182.71*

MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier
SECONDED BY: Councillor MacLennan
MOTION CARRIED

(j) MABOU COMMUNITY HALL

MOTION: *That Council defer the funding request of the Mabou Community Hall to the 2021 – 2022 Fiscal Budget.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis
SECONDED BY: Councillor Chisholm
MOTION CARRIED

(k) INVERNESS COUNTY CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

MOTION: *That Council fund the request of the Inverness County Centre for the Arts in the amount of \$10,000 in full, with funds coming from the Regional CDG Funds.*

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
SECONDED BY: Councillor MacLennan
MOTION CARRIED

(l) DR. BERNIE MACLEAN RECREATION AND CULTURAL CENTRE

MOTION: *That Council defer the funding request of the Dr. Bernie MacLean Recreation and Cultural Centre to the 2021 – 2022 Fiscal Budget.*

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier
MOTION CARRIED

(m) CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS EDUCATION CENTRE AND ACADEMY

MOTION: *That Council fund the request of Cape Breton Highlands Education Centre and*

Academy in the amount of \$5,000.00 in full, with funds coming from the Scotian Wind Fund.

MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis
SECONDED BY: Councillor Chisholm
MOTION CARRIED

(n) MARGAREE AND AREA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (MADA)

MOTION: *That Council fund the request of the Margaree and Area Development Association in the amount of \$9,684.73 in the following manner:
District # 2 CDC - \$2,500.00
District # 2 Discretionary - \$3,500.00
Scotian Wind Fund- \$3,684.73*

MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis
SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier
MOTION CARRIED

(o) WHYCOCOMAGH CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

MOTION: *That Council fund 50% of the request of the Whycomomagh Child Development Centre in the amount of \$3,087.75 with funds coming from District # 4 CDG Funds.*

MOVED BY: Councillor MacLennan
SECONDED BY: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
MOTION CARRIED

(p) ORANGEDALE STATION ASSOCIATION

MOTION: *That Council fund 50% of the request of the Orangedale Station Association in the amount of \$9,605.38 with funds coming from District # 4 CDG Funds.*

MOVED BY: Councillor MacLennan
SECONDED BY: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
MOTION CARRIED

(q) JUDIQUE & AREA COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

MOTION: *That Council fund the request of the Judique & Area Community Economic Development Association in the amount of \$5,000.00 in full, with funds coming from District # 6 CDG Funds, contingent on payment by the Judique & Area Community Economic Development Association of the Municipal Water Utility balance of \$1,326.79.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis
SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier
MOTION CARRIED

(r) RIVER VALLEY EQUESTRIAN CENTRE – LETTER OF SUPPORT

MOTION: *That Council provide the letter of support for the River Valley Equestrian Centre to host Cowboy Mounted Shooting Clinics at their Margaree facility, as presented in the Council Package, to be signed by the Deputy Warden.*

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden MacIsaac

SECONDED BY: Councillor Chisholm

MOTION CARRIED

(s) COVID-19 VACCINE AVAILABILITY – LETTER TO THE MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

MOTION: *That Council provide the letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs regarding the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine in the Municipality, as presented in the Council Package, to be signed by the Warden.*

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden MacIsaac

SECONDED BY: Councillor MacLennan

MOTION CARRIED

(t) DUPLICATE TAX ACCOUNT OVERPAYMENT – LETTER TO PVSC

MOTION: *That Council provide the letter to Property Valuation Services Corporation requesting a response in writing to the M. Morris issue of overpayment resulting from a duplicate account, as presented in the Council Package, to be signed by the Warden.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Chisholm

SECONDED BY: Deputy Warden MacIsaac

MOTION CARRIED

7. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) CAPE BRETON CRIMESTOPPERS

Warden Cranton read a letter sent to the Municipality from the Cape Breton Crime Stoppers Association requesting support. Consensus to add this item to the next meeting of the Police Advisory Board meeting in May 2021. Further information could be requested of them such as financial statements, how they have helped this Municipality, and what other Cape Breton Municipalities are contributing.

(b) MINISTER MAGUIRE

Warden Cranton read a letter of introduction from the new Minister of Municipal Affairs, Brendan Maguire.

Consensus to put Bill 4 (Biodiversity Act) on the agenda for the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE

Committee of the Whole: Thursday, April 15th, 2021 9:30 am

Consensus to ask the following of Strait Area Transit:

- Financial contributions per Municipalities to Strait Area Transit
- Ridership data over the past year
- Value to the Port Hawkesbury “In Kind” contribution

Warden Cranton will ask these items of the Strait Area Transit manager, Amber Carrigan.

Councillor Poirier will ask for Financial Statements from the Eastern Counties Regional Library.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *That Council adjourn at 4:19 pm.*

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Maclsaac

MOTION CARRIED