

**Municipality of the County of Inverness**  
**Committee of the Whole Meeting**  
**Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**9:30 am**

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

Staff: Keith MacDonald, CAO  
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  
Donna MacDonald, Director of Tourism and Culture  
Charlotte MacDonald, Manager of Recreation

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.

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** *That the agenda be approved as amended: Three additional items will be added to the agenda under "Correspondence".*

**Moved BY:** Councillor Chisholm

**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden MacIsaac

**MOTION CARRIED**

**2. ONLINE PRESENTATION**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND ACTIVE TRANSIT; PORT HASTINGS ROTARY REDESIGN**

**MOTION:** *That the presentation by the Department of Transportation and Active Transit on the Port Hastings Rotary Redesign be allowed to exceed the fifteen minute time limit awarded to presenters.*

**Moved BY:** Councillor Gillis

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Poirier

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Presenters: Mark Brace, David Spencer, Keith Boddy, and Dwayne Cross**

A five million dollar intersection upgrade is planned for the Port Hastings Rotary Intersection. A roundabout design will replace the current configuration. Construction is planned over the next 2 years with off-road work occurring this year, and the bulk of the work occurring in 2022. The project is driven by safety improvements and efficiency.

Concerns expressed by Council include:

- French Language Signage
- Extra Lanes to allow for back-ups into Port Hastings during a Swing Bridge Closure
- Communication with vessels travelling through the Causeway
- High-sided vehicles: where can they park during a Causeway closure?
- That the Municipality be included in discussions with the Port Hastings Volunteer Fire Department
- Is the Department of Transportation and Active Transit reaching out to EMO for improved efficiencies during a Causeway closure?
- Are additional budget funds a possibility?
- Amber flashing lights to warn drivers of a bridge closure

**3. STAFF REPORTS**

**(a) Water and Wastewater Operations, Chestley Carr**

Monthly highlights include the Dunmore Water Treatment Plant flow rate investigation, the decommissioning of the Mabou 8" well, and the disinfection and sampling of the Mabou 6" well. Ongoing projects include Lift Station repairs and replacement, generator fencing, SCADA upgrades, sampling and inspections and Stage 2 of the generator project. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

**(b) Infrastructure Unit, Ellen Murphy**

Monthly highlights include Confined Space Rescue and Skid Steer Training for some staff members as well as the cleanup of fallen tree debris on Municipal Property by local contractors. Ongoing projects include water, sewer and asphalt repairs, Inverness wellfield cleanup, Route 19 Inverness paving project, and hydrant painting and repairs. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

**(c) Operations and Occupational Health and Safety, Erin Gillis**

The Spring Heavy garbage pickup is scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup> to June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Recent heavy rains resulted in damage to the Kenloch access road. The Joint Occupational Health and Safety sub-committee on incident management continues to meet twice a month to review submitted incident reports. The Kenloch ground water well repair and replacement project continues. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

**(d) Environmental Compliance, Trudy Gillis**

Monthly highlights include weekly and monthly reports to Nova Scotia Environment and annual reports for water and wastewater treatment. Information has been gathered for various contractors working on behalf of the Municipality. Budget preparation, RFP review, and the listing of lift station assets and equipment are some of current projects underway. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

**(e) Department of Tourism and Culture, Donna MacDonald**

Monthly highlights include the Back to Work program in Inverness, and the New Welcome Group in Inverness. Ongoing projects include Margaree & Whycomomagh Brand & Signage Project, The Margaree Brand Video, the Volunteer Recognition Program, the Welcome Network Groups, the Return to Work Project, the Digital Influence Project, Judique Brand and Streetscapes and the We'koqma'q Skye River Trail Project. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

**(f) Department of Recreation, Charlotte MacDonald**

The Recreation and Physical Activity Master Plan project is ongoing. A maintenance schedule and process review for the equipment rental program is underway. Multiple projects are moving forward including Westside Basketball, and the Caddie Program. The Staff Wellness Program and the Field Team Leader Programs are ongoing. The Sports Fund and Accessibility Grant applications are in progress. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

**(g) Special Projects, Melanie Beaton**

Many meetings continue with consultant teams, project stakeholders, and community residents resulting in advancing projects and mobilization towards accomplishing project objectives. Ongoing projects include Wellfield Programs, Inverness Flow Monitoring, Whycomomagh WWTP, Biosolids Management Plan, among many others. RFP preparation and reporting continue, and multiple Community Projects and Community Grant Applications are ongoing.

**4. UPDATE: Manager of Infrastructure: Sidewalk Maintenance**

An update was provided by the Manager of Infrastructure, Ellen Murphy, to Council on the current number of hydrants owned and maintained by the Municipality, and the process involved in clearing Municipal sidewalks of snow and ice during the winter. Current equipment in stock, future equipment requirements, and staffing and training requirements involved in sidewalk maintenance were provided.

The area of roadway to the north side of Central Avenue in Inverness is not owned by the Municipality, therefore not maintained by Municipal staff. The width of this area does not allow for safe access with Municipal infrastructure. The Municipality does not own or maintain the staircases in this area.

Issues expressed by Council:

- Liability concerns were expressed by Council. Staff will revise numbers and bring back to Council a dollar value of what is required in order to meet the 24 hour timeline in the Sidewalk Maintenance Policy, as well as the cost of hiring contractors to complete this work.
- Can a message be issued to the public outlining that the Municipality is not responsible for maintaining the area of roadway to the north side of Central Avenue and staircase maintenance in Inverness?
- A comparison of costs from previous years involved in sidewalk maintenance.
- Is quality control occurring post clean up?
- Adequate maintenance on sidewalks for scooters and wheelchairs.

The Manager of Infrastructure will prepare a cost comparison on sidewalk maintenance services (in house versus contractors), as well as various costing scenarios for Council to consider as options for sidewalk maintenance, and provide a presentation to Council at a future meeting on these items.

#### **5. PRESENTATION: Monique Aucoin; la Société Mi-Carême**

La Société Mi-Carême is a unique attraction in the Acadia Region of Inverness County. It began in 2009 and operates almost entirely year-round until COVID-19. Current challenges include adequate management, proper signage, and non-functioning monitors.

Meals on Wheels had been operating out of the Foyer Pere Fiset until the COVID-19 pandemic. Since June 2020 the program has been hosted out of the Mi-Carême Centre.

#### **6. PRESENTATION: Chester Muise; Meals on Wheels**

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Meals on Wheels program serving Northern Inverness County was hosted out of the Foyer Pere Fiset facility in Chéticamp. The pandemic brought an end to the Meals on Wheels program at this location, and its relocation to the Mi-Carême Centre. Continued operation of the Meals on Wheels Program is made possible by Volunteers, Government Grants and Community Donations.

*12:10 pm: Recess for lunch*

*12:35 pm: Meeting resumes*

#### **7. PRESENTATION: Darlene Doucet; Dialysis Services**

Le Foyer Père Fiset in Chéticamp will receive renovations and an expansion and is attached to Le Centre de Santé Communautaire Sacré Coeur in Chéticamp. The committee hoping to bring

Dialysis services to Northern Inverness County sees this as a perfect opportunity to add this service to Le Centre de Santé Communautaire Sacré Coeur. This service would enable residents of Northern Inverness County to obtain dialysis close to home.

Recommendation to Council that a letter be sent to the Provincial Minister of Health in support of dialysis services in Northern Inverness County.

**8. PRESENTATION: Shane MacInnis and Bernard Cameron; Bayview Trails**

Bayview Education Centre students and staff have begun the construction of a multipurpose, multi-cultural recreational trail for the school population and residents of the surrounding communities. Phase 1 of the project began in the Fall of 2020. Construction efforts commenced with students and teacher leaders roughing out a 1 km trail around the school property. Phases 2 and 3 of the trails project will commence late in the Spring of 2021 and will continue through to the Spring of 2022. These two phases will involve completing the construction of pathways to ensure they are all inclusive and fully accessible to the student body and community members alike.

**9. UPDATE: Melanie Beaton; Volunteer Fire Department Generator Request for Proposals**

A Request for Proposals was posted for this project with a closing date of April 1, 2021. Two responses were received. The staff recommendation is to proceed with the Hilltop Electrical proposal. Generators and surge protectors will be provided at the Port Hastings, Inverness and Lemoine volunteer fire departments. \$185,155.75 is the value of this budget with funds being provided through the Emergency Measures Grant. The work is expected to take 19 weeks after the award.

**10. UPDATE: Melanie Beaton; Port Hood Wharf Tender**

The Municipality posted a request for construction services for the former Port Hood public wharf. The closing date is April 30, 2021. The project will see the demolition and stabilization of the wharf to ensure the integrity of the beach and ensure safety of users. The completion date of the project is July 7, 2021. Staff is hoping for a further update by the next meeting of Council. A plan for crowd control, and public health and safety will also be developed.

**11. BILL 4: Biodiversity Act**

At the April 1, 2021 Regular Council Meeting, Council asked that Bill 4 be brought back to Council for discussion at today's meeting. On April 13, 2021, Bill 4 passed its Third Reading at the Nova Scotia Legislature. It is due to be enforced on October 1, 2021. Public consultation will occur before the regulations to this Act are finalized.

Recommendation to Council that a letter be sent to the Minister of Lands and Forestry, Chuck Porter, asking that the Municipality of the County of Inverness be informed of any public consultations taking place for the regulations to Bill 4.

### **12. LETTER OF SUPPORT: CBU Centre for Discovery and Innovation**

At the March 18, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting, David Dingwall, President of Cape Breton University, provided a presentation to Council on the Cape Breton University Centre for Discovery and Innovation. Mr. Dingwall asked for a letter of support from the Municipality of the County of Inverness for the project.

Recommendation to Council that a Letter of Support be issued to Cape Breton University for the Cape Breton University Centre for Discovery and Innovation.

### **13. COUNCIL MEETING TIMES**

Possible start times for Council Meetings were discussed.

Recommendation that for the time being, Committee of the Whole meetings will begin at 9:30 am and Regular Meetings of Council will begin at 3:00 pm.

### **14. VENDING BY-LAW; FEE STRUCTURE AND FINES**

Manger of Legal and Governance, Christine Murray, presented to Council the status of the revised Municipal Vending By-Law. A number of considerations were brought before Council such as annual and special event fees for both stands and vending vehicles, a separate policy for permit fees and fines for contravening the Vending By-law. Staff will seek further input and direction from Council at the next Regular Meeting of Council on these considerations.

### **15. STREET LIGHT MAINTENANCE**

Council discussed the lack of maintenance for some of the Municipally operated decorative streetlights within the County.

Recommendation to Council that a Municipal decorative streetlight maintenance policy be created with timelines and maintenance plan fully outlined as to who is responsible. A procurement process for ongoing maintenance of these streetlights was also recommended, once the policy is in place.

### **16. CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) **FCM Conference:** The Annual Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference will be held entirely online this year from May 31 to June 4, 2021. Council has the option to attend virtually.

(b) **Strait Area Pool:** A request to consider a funding contribution increase was received by Council. Consideration will be given to this request during Municipal budget deliberations.

(c) **Raising the Villages:** An Invitation was extended to Municipal Council to attend a retreat, May 8 and 9, 2021 at the Inverness Arts Centre.

(d) **Eastern District Planning Commission:** March 2021 building stats for the Municipality were included in today's Council package.

## **17. NEXT MEETING DATE**

Regular Council Meeting: May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 3:00 pm

## **18. IN CAMERA**

The purpose for this "in camera" session was to discuss matters relating to:

- a. acquisition, sale, lease and security of municipal property.

**MOTION:** *That Council move to "in camera" at 2:13 pm.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Gillis

**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Maclsaac

**MOTION:** *That Council move out of "in camera" at 2:37 pm.*

**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Maclsaac

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Poirier

## **19. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** *That Council adjourn at 2:37 pm.*

**MOVED:** Councillor Poirier

**MOTION CARRIED**