

**Municipality of the County of Inverness
Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, May 6th, 2021
3:00 pm
Video Conference**

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
 Erin Gillis, Manager, Operations & Occupational Health and Safety
 Donna MacDonald, Director of Tourism and Culture
 Karolyn Aucoin, Communications and Community Engagement Specialist

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Warden Cranton called the meeting to order at 3:13 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.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: *That the Agenda be approved as presented.*

MOVED BY: Councillor MacLennan

SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier

MOTION CARRIED

3. PRESENTATION: PROPERTY VALUATION SERVICES CORPORATION: Lloyd MacLeod; Senior Valuation Advisor and Dave Penny; Regional Manager

Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) is an independent, not-for-profit organization created by the Property Valuation Services Corporation Act in 2007 and is Municipally funded. PVSC delivers an assessment roll to all 49 provincial municipalities annually, and assessment notices to all Nova Scotia property owners every January. A 31 day appeal period follows in February. PVSC discussed the appeal process and the time limits for appeals set out in the

Assessment Act. PVSC also mentioned the assessment “Cap” and how it works. The Nova Scotia Land Registration Office creates the assessment accounts and sends them to PVSC to place a value on the accounts. PVSC uses mass appraisal to determine the value of all 630,000 property accounts in Nova Scotia. The Inverness County Assessment Roll has a combined total value of over \$1.5 Million in both residential and commercial assessed values.

Warden Cranton lost Internet connection with the Council meeting at 3:45 pm. Deputy Warden Maclsaac took over as meeting chair.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Council April 1, 2021

MOTION: *That the Regular Council Meeting minutes of April 1, 2021 be approved as presented.*

MOVED BY: Councillor MacLennan

SECONDED BY: Councillor Gillis

MOTION CARRIED

Committee of the Whole, April 15, 2021

MOTION: *That the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of April 15, 2021 be approved as presented.*

MOVED BY: Councillor MacLennan

SECONDED BY: Councillor Chisholm

MOTION CARRIED

5. PROCLAMATION: LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

MOTION: *WHEREAS Lyme disease is a serious illness caused by the bite of a black-legged tick infected with the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*; and
WHEREAS black-legged ticks carrying a variety of diseases or illnesses can now be found in all parts of Nova Scotia; and
WHEREAS awareness, education and practicing preventative measures, such as daily tick checks and proper tick removal, can help reduce your chances of contracting tick borne diseases;
THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Deputy Warden Maclsaac, on behalf of the Municipality of the County of Inverness, do hereby proclaim May 2021 as “Lyme Disease Awareness Month”.*

6. VENDING BY-LAW CONSIDERATIONS

At the April 15, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting Council was provided with considerations toward the development of a Municipal Vending By-Law. Items under consideration include:

- Annual Fee for a permit – suggestions from Council included \$500.00 for a County resident, and \$1000.00 for a non-resident. A reduced rate for youth and a smaller scale operation was also suggested. Clarification was provided on the definition of a “stand”. A separate, smaller fee for a hot dog stand was recommended. One set fee was generally regarded as ideal. Consensus that there be an annual fee as opposed to a seasonal fee.
- Should fees be set out in the by-law, or in a separate policy? Consensus for the fee schedule to be in a separate policy.
- Fines – Fine suggestions for a vendor operating within the Municipality without a vending license ranged from \$400.00 - \$500.00, with a \$1000.00 fine for non-residents. Second and third offences were suggested to increase with the permit to be revoked upon a third offence.
- Special Event Fee- consensus for this fee to be \$100.00 per day.

Staff will incorporate these directions from Council into the Vending By-Law which will be presented to Council at a subsequent meeting for approval of First Reading.

7. UPDATE ON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND ACTIVE TRANSIT APPROVAL PROCESS FOR J-CLASS ROADS SELECTION FOR 2021-2022

At the April 29th, 2021 Special Council Meeting, Council was presented with a letter from the Department of Transportation and Active Transit (DTAT) indicating what J Class roads have been approved for paving and/or repaving under the cost shared program. The DTAT had approved sections of the following roads for this program: Old Deepdale Road, Lovers Lane, and Lochness Street.

At Council’s request, Staff reached out to the DTAT to determine how they arrived at the list of roads selected for improvements. The DTAT provided the following information in response:

- Funding is contingent upon:
 - o the amount the paving program receives for the Fiscal Year;
 - o the number of Municipal Units that wish to participate in the paving program; and
 - o the percentage of roads in each Municipality that are unpaved/paved.
- As a result, allocations given each year to the Municipal Units cannot be compared on a year-to-year basis.
- The percentage of paved/unpaved roads is a formula based on:
 - o the budget the Province has;
 - o what each Municipality submits; and
 - o how many roads overall are received.
- The Project Engineers in the districts provide the Department with comments on each road and if they think it’s a good candidate or not. Some roads require more work to bring them up to a J Class standard which in turn increases the estimates for those roads, so if

one Municipality requested only 1 road, but that road cost \$250K or more, based on all the factors above, the Province does not have the funds to do that road unfortunately. But if the road had no issues and was a straight forward job, and came in at \$50,000 or \$75,000, then it may get done as the cost isn't so high.

- There are several things the Department needs to take into consideration when reviewing the road requests – but it all boils down to funding and how many roads overall the Department receives, the funding percentage for each Municipality, and the comments from the Project Engineers.

As a next step, Staff will review any requirements related to water and sewer infrastructure that pertain to the three roads that were chosen for improvements under this program, and provide an update to Council.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

a) DIALYSIS SERVICES IN NORTHERN INVERNESS COUNTY

MOTION: *That the letter in the Council Package addressed to Zach Churchill, Minister of Health and Wellness, in support of dialysis services in Northern Inverness County, be signed by the Warden and sent with a copy to MP Mike Kelloway and Darlene Doucet.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier

SECONDED BY: Councillor Gillis

MOTION CARRIED

b) BILL 4: CHANGES TO THE BIODIVERSITY ACT

MOTION: *That the letter in the Council Package addressed to Chuck Porter, Minister of Lands and Forestry, asking that the Municipality of the County of Inverness be informed of any public consultations taking place for the regulations for Bill 4: Biodiversity Act, be signed by the Warden and sent.*

MOVED BY: Councillor MacLennan

SECONDED BY: Councillor Gillis

MOTION CARRIED

c) CBU CENTRE FOR DISCOVERY AND INNOVATION

MOTION: *That the Letter of Support in the Council Package addressed to David Dingwall, President of Cape Breton University, in support of the Cape Breton University Centre for Discovery and Innovation, be signed by the Warden and sent.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis

SECONDED BY: Councillor Chisholm
MOTION CARRIED

d) TEMPORARY BORROWING RESOLUTION FOR J CLASS ROADS

MOTION: *WHEREAS Section 66 of the Municipal Government Act provides that the Council of the Municipality of the County of Inverness, subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs, may borrow to expend funds for a capital purpose as authorized by statute;*
WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of the County of Inverness has adopted a capital budget for this fiscal year as required by Section 65 of the Municipal Government Act and are so authorized to expend funds for a capital purpose as identified in their capital budget; and
WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of the County of Inverness has determined to borrow the aggregate principal amount of one million fifty five thousand two hundred Dollars (\$1,055,200.00) for the purposes of J Class Road Paving – 50% Cost Share;
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT under the authority of Section 66 of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of the Municipality of the County of Inverness borrow a sum or sums not exceeding one million fifty five thousand two hundred Dollars (\$1,055,200.00) for the purpose set out above, subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs;
THAT the sum be borrowed by the issue and sale of debentures of the Council of the Municipality of the County of Inverness to such an amount as the Council deems necessary;
THAT the issue of debentures be postponed pursuant to Section 92 of the Municipal Government Act and that the Council borrow from time to time a sum or sums not exceeding one million fifty five thousand two hundred Dollars (\$1,055,200.00) in total from any chartered bank or trust company doing business in Nova Scotia;
THAT the sum be borrowed for a period not exceeding Twelve (12) Months from the date of the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing of this resolution;
THAT the interest payable on the borrowing be paid at a rate to be agreed upon; and
THAT the amount borrowed be repaid from the proceeds of the debentures when sold.

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

e) PORT HOOD WELLFIELD PROJECT

MOTION: *That Council approve the budget for the Port Hood Wellfield Pump Test*

Project in the amount of \$57,638.00 with funds coming from the gas tax.
MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis
SECONDED BY: Councillor Chisholm
MOTION CARRIED

9. TIMING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council was asked for their preferences for start times for both Regular and Committee of the Whole meetings.

MOTION: *That Committee of the Whole Meetings begin at 9:30 am, and Regular Council meetings begin at 3:00 pm.*
MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis
SECONDED BY: Councillor Chisholm
Councillor Poirier, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Gillis voted in favour;
Councillor MacLennan voted against.

MOTION CARRIED

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

May 20th 9:30 am – Committee of the Whole
June 3rd 3:00 pm – Regular Council

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *That Council adjourn at 4:37 pm.*
MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis
MOTION CARRIED