

**Municipality of the County of Inverness  
Special Meeting  
Thursday, May 6th, 2021  
1:00 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

Town of Port Hawkesbury Staff:  
                      Terry Doyle, CAO  
                      Erin MacEachen, Director of Finance  
                      Paula Davis, Director of Recreation

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Warden Cranton called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm and welcomed all in attendance. Roll call was taken.

**2. PRESENTATION BY TOWN OF PORT HAWKESBURY**

Mr. Doyle, Ms. MacEachen, and Ms. Davis presented on the Strait Area Pool, Strait Area Transit, and the Allan J. MacEachen Regional Airport.

With respect to the Strait Area Pool, operational costs are a challenge; resulting in an ongoing aquatics deficit. Participation statistics were provided. Council of the Municipality of the County of Inverness questioned some of the statistics provided by the Town of Port Hawkesbury, and asked for additional information regarding usage of the pool by residents of the Municipality of the County of Inverness, to ensure accurate statistics. The Town of Port Hawkesbury advised it would provide additional information based upon these requests. The Town of Port Hawkesbury

is currently requesting funding for the Strait Area Pool in the amount of \$35,000.00 from the Municipality of the County of Inverness.

The Town of Port Hawkesbury is a partner in Strait Area Transit (SAT). Their primary contribution is through in-kind contribution, hosting both office space and garage space. The Town of Port Hawkesbury is seeking a funding contribution from the Municipality of the County of Inverness determined on the basis of ridership.

The Allan J. MacEachen Regional Airport operates year-round out of its Port Hastings location. Celtic Air Services is contracted to manage the daily operations at the airport.

*2:25 pm – Town of Port Hawkesbury staff left the meeting.*

### **3. 2021-2022 OPERATIONAL BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS**

- a) Contribution to Strait Area Pool: Tanya Tibbo will gather further statistical information about the Pool before suggesting a contribution amount. Also: what are neighboring municipalities budgeting toward the pool and does the pool qualify for funding under the Safe Restart program?
- b) Contribution to Allan J. MacEachen Regional Airport: The Airport currently has a reserve of over \$794,000.00. The Town of Port Hawkesbury is requesting \$15,000.00 of the Municipality of the County of Inverness.

Recommendation that the Municipality does not fund the Allan J. MacEachen Regional Airport this year due to the fact that the Airport has a reserve. Consideration can be given to individual project funding.

- c) Contribution to Strait Area Transit:

Recommendation to budget \$112,000.00 to Strait Area Transit. Recommendation that Safe Restart funding can be utilized to fund additional costs due to COVID-19.

- d) Contribution to l'Acadie: \$20,000.00 is currently budgeted for the 2021-2022 fiscal year in the Municipality's 2021-2022 Operating Budget.

### **4. TABLING OF AGENDA ITEMS IN INTERESTS OF TIME**

**MOTION:** *That Agenda items 3(e) Traffic Control Staff, 3(f) Condolences Gifting and 4. Operational Budget Summary be tabled to a further point in the day in the interests of time.*

**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Maclsaac

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Gillis

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 5. CAPITAL BUDGET PRIORITY ITEMS

- a) Chéticamp and Whycocomagh Lift Stations: Control Panel Re-builds

**MOTION:** *That Council approve the budget of \$241,270.00 to advance the Control Panel Re-builds in Chéticamp and Whycocomagh with funds coming from the Capital Reserve Surplus.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Gillis

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Chisholm

**MOTION CARRIED**

- b) Port Hood Wharf: Demolition and Stabilization Project.

**MOTION:** *That Council approve additional funding in the amount of \$12,025.00 for the completion of the Port Hood Wharf Demolition and Stabilization Project.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Poirier

**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Maclsaac

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Consensus to address the remainder of the meeting agenda items after today's Regular Council meeting.*

## 6. RECESS

**MOTION:** *That Council recess at 3:06 pm.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Poirier

**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Maclsaac

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:** *That Council return to the Special Meeting at 4:47pm.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Gillis

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Poirier

**MOTION CARRIED**

Present at Special Meeting at 4:47pm:

Council: Deputy Warden Bonny Maclsaac  
Councillor Alfred Poirier  
Councillor Lynn Chisholm  
Councillor Catherine Gillis  
Regrets: Councillor John MacLennan

Warden Laurie Cranton (*Warden Cranton returned to the meeting at 5:15 pm*)

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

### **3. 2021-2022 OPERATIONAL BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS**

- e) Traffic Control Staff vs. Traffic Control Contractors: In the past, the Municipality has used contractors for traffic control. Municipal staff has realized that cost savings could be realized by hiring four seasonal Municipal employees to conduct this work over a 21 week period (June – October).

Recommendation that the Municipality will look at traffic control to be conducted by Municipal staff as opposed to being contracted out to an independent company.

- f) Condolences Gifting: Council discussed the possible options available to acknowledge the passing of a former Municipal employee, or current council/staff member's family member.

Recommendation to staff to investigate the possible options available to extend condolences on the passing of a former Municipal employee, or current council/staff member's family member.

### **5. 2021-2022 OPERATIONAL BUDGET SUMMARY**

- a) Tanya Tibbo, Director of Finance, provided an overview of the 2021-2022 Operational Budget to date. She recommended an increase in the Municipal wastewater area rate of 3.3 cents in the 2021-2022 Operational Budget.

**MOTION:** *That Council approve an increase in the 2021-2022 waste water area rate by 3.3 cents.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Poirier

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Chisholm

**MOTION CARRIED**

- b) Tanya Tibbo, Director of Finance, provided four (4) different options to Council for addressing the anticipated shortfall of \$229,736.00 in the 2021-2022 Operational Budget.

- I. Fund the \$229,736.00 shortfall with funds from last year's surplus;
- II. Increase residential and resource tax rate by 2.7 cents;
- III. Search for further reductions in the draft budget; or
- IV. Any combination of options I, II or III.

**MOTION:** *That Council proceed with Option 1 and fund the \$229,736.00 shortfall in the 2021-2022 Operational Budget with funds from last year's surplus.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Gillis

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Chisholm

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **6. NEXT MEETING DATE**

May 20, 2021 at 9:30 am: Committee of the Whole

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** *That Council adjourn at 5:22 pm*

**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Maclsaac

**MOTION CARRIED**