

**Municipality of the County of Inverness**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**Thursday, June 3rd, 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  
                      Charlotte MacDonald, Manager of Recreation  
                      Amey Beaton, Tourism Assistant

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

Warden Cranton called the meeting to order at 3:00 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.

The enclosed statement was read by Warden Cranton followed by a moment of silence:

*Council and staff of the Municipality of the County of Inverness mourn the devastating loss of the 215 children whose remains were recently discovered in a mass grave at the site of the former Kamloops Residential School. The Municipality extends its sincere condolences to the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation, and to all the family, friends, and loved ones of these children who never returned home. This horrific discovery is but one of many atrocities caused by the residential school system, forever affecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities. Flags at the Port Hood Administrative Building are flying at half-mast to honour the innocent lives lost, the survivors, and their family and friends.*

*Municipal Council and staff join the voices across the country calling for the Government of Canada to prioritize the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action Report, and to undertake the vital work of ensuring every First Nations, Inuit, and*

*Métis community has access to the quality supports and conditions necessary to heal and flourish. Municipal Council and staff affirm and acknowledge that the County is located within Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. The Municipality greatly values its ongoing collaborations with We'koqma'q First Nation and all other First Nations communities of Unama'ki. The Municipality is committed to reconciliation and will continue to learn and grow in a manner that supports First Nations, Inuit, and Métis friends and neighbours.*

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** *That the Regular Council Meeting minutes of May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 be approved as presented.*

**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Maclsaac

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Chisholm

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:** *That the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 be approved as presented.*

**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Maclsaac

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Gillis

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:** *That the Special Council Meeting minutes of March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 be approved as presented.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Gillis

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Chisholm

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:** *That the Special Council Meeting minutes of April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 be approved as presented.*

**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Maclsaac

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Gillis

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:** *That the Special Council Meeting minutes of April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 be approved as presented.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Gillis

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Chisholm

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:** *That the Special Council Meeting minutes of April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 be approved as presented.*

**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Maclsaac

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Poirier

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:** *That the Special Council Meeting minutes of May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 be approved as presented.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Poirier

**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Maclsaac

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:** *That the Planning and Advisory Committee Meeting minutes of May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 be approved as presented.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Gillis

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Poirier

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:** *That the Nominating Committee Meeting minutes of May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 be approved as presented.*

**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Maclsaac

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Poirier

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **3. PROCLAMATION: WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY**

**WHEREAS:** **The Municipality of the County of Inverness** seniors are valued, contributing members of society, imparting a wealth of experience and wisdom in our communities. They deserve to be treated with respect and dignity. It is our collective responsibility to ensure they live safely and fully engaged within the community that cares about them.

**WHEREAS:** The **International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse**, in support of the **United Nations International Plan of Action**, proclaimed this day to recognize the significance of elder abuse as both a public health and human rights issue; and

**WHEREAS:** **2021** Marks the **16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**. Its recognition will foster a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older adults; and

**WHEREAS:** Elder abuse is not limited to race, gender, culture, or circumstance, and regardless of whether the abuse is physical, emotional, or financial, it has a significant impact on the lives of individuals and families; and

**WHEREAS:** Seniors are at risk of being abused and social isolation and ageism are contributing risk factors in Nova Scotia; and

**WHEREAS:** **The Municipality of the County of Inverness** recognizes the importance of taking action, to create social change, that prevents elder abuse and raises awareness, through education of neighbours, friends and family members about the Rights of older adults; and

**WHEREAS:** Preventing abuse of older adults will help improve their quality of life and allow them to live independently and contribute to the vibrancy of Nova Scotia for as long as possible; and

**WHEREAS:** Where there is **Respect** there can be no abuse; therefore, residents of Nova Scotia are urged to *Stop Abuse and Restore Respect*.

**WHEREAS:** Where there is respect there can be no abuse; therefore, residents of **The Municipality of the County of Inverness**, are urged to join this global movement to *Stop Abuse and Restore Respect*.

**THEREFORE;** I, Laurie Cranton, **Warden of The Municipality of the County of Inverness**, Nova Scotia do hereby proclaim June 15, 2021 as **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day** and encourage all of our residents to recognize and celebrate seniors and their ongoing contributions to the success and vitality of our province, Nova Scotia.

#### **4. PRESENTATION: ENGAGE NS; Catherine Hart and Danny Graham**

Engage Nova Scotia is an independent, non-profit organization that was initiated in 2012. Engage Nova Scotia works with partners to foster a culture of engagement and collaboration in communities across the province. During 2019, one in five Nova Scotia households received an invitation to participate in a voluntary survey involving 230 quality of life questions. A deeper look at the Quality of Life data will be released this year to better understand, based on the results, the profile and prevalence of discrimination, social isolation, community vitality, poverty, health, and trusting relationships in our province.

#### **5. TOURISM AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT UPDATE; Donna MacDonald and Amey Beaton**

The 2021 summer brochure is being distributed soon and is focused on outdoor activities, as it is difficult to plan for many festivals and events during the COVID-19 pandemic. There is a map component to the brochure, and it will be distributed through newspapers, social media, as well as the Visitor Information Centres. Community branding is featured in many of the community listings. A video highlighting the Margarees which will be released to the public very soon was viewed by Council.

#### **6. OPERATIONAL BUDGET 2021-2022; Tanya Tibbo**

The General Operating Budget for 2021-2022 year and the Water Utility Operating Budget for Fiscal 2021-2022 were presented to Council.

**MOTION:** *RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 72 of the Municipal Government Act of the Province of Nova Scotia, as amended, the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the County of Inverness hereby authorizes the levying and collection of a commercial property tax rate of \$1.91 per \$100 of the assessed value of taxable commercial property, a residential tax rate of \$1.05 per \$100 of the assessed value of taxable residential property, a resource tax rate of \$1.05 per \$100 of the assessed value of taxable resource property, and a forest property tax rate of \$0.25 per acre for*

*property based on the 2021 Assessment Roll provided by Property Valuation Services Corporation.*

*AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 75 of the Municipal Government Act of the Province of Nova Scotia, as amended, the said Council hereby authorizes and levies the following area rates based on the 2021 Assessment Roll provided by Property Valuation Services Corporation:*

*Wastewater Area Rates*

- *Wastewater Service Area Rate - Districts 3, 4, 5, 6: \$0.374 Per \$100 of assessment*
- *Wastewater Service Area Rate - District 1: \$0.363 Per \$100 of assessment*

*District 1*

- *Cheticamp Volunteer Fire Department: \$0.10 Per \$100 of assessment*
- *Cheticamp Volunteer Fire Department (Commercial Rate): \$0.06 Per \$100 of assessment*
- *Meat Cove Volunteer Fire Department: \$60.00 Per 1 Dwelling Unit*
- *Pleasant Bay Volunteer Fire Department: \$125.00 Per 1 Dwelling Unit*

*District 2*

- *North East Margaree Volunteer Fire Department: \$0.10 Per \$100 of assessment*
- *Margaree Volunteer Fire Department: \$0.10 Per \$100 of assessment*
- *Margaree Volunteer Fire Department (Commercial Rate): \$0.10 Per \$100 of assessment*
- *Lemoine Volunteer Fire Department: \$0.10 Per \$100 of assessment*
- *Lemoine Volunteer Fire Department (Commercial Rate): \$0.10 Per \$100 of assessment*

*District 3*

- *Inverness Volunteer Fire Department: \$0.08 Per \$100 of assessment*

*District 4*

- *Whycocomagh Volunteer Fire Department: \$0.10 Per \$100 of assessment*
- *Ainslie/Upper Margaree Volunteer Fire Department: \$0.10 Per \$100 of assessment*

- *Valley Mills Volunteer Fire Department: \$0.10 Per \$100 of assessment*
- *Blues Mills Volunteer Fire Department: \$0.10 Per \$100 of assessment*
- *Blues Mills Volunteer Fire Department (Commercial Rate): \$0.05 Per \$100 of assessment*

District 5

- *Mabou (1 Dwelling) Volunteer Fire Department: \$100.00 Per 1 Dwelling Unit*
- *Mabou (More than 1 dwelling) Volunteer Fire Department: \$200.00 More than 2 Dwelling Units*
- *Port Hood Volunteer Fire Department: \$0.10 Per \$100 of assessment*
- *Port Hood Volunteer Fire Department (Commercial Rate): \$0.06 Per \$100 of assessment*

District 6

- *Port Hastings Volunteer Fire Department: \$0.10 Per \$100 of assessment*
- *Judique Volunteer Fire Department: \$0.10 Per \$100 of assessment*
- *West Bay Road Volunteer Fire Department: \$0.10 Per \$100 of assessment*

*AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the said Council hereby require payment of the said rates and taxes to be made to the Tax Collector or Treasurer of the said Municipality on August 27th, 2021.*

*AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the said Council hereby impose an additional percentage of one percent per month on all rates and taxes remaining unpaid after August 27th, 2021.*

*AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council fixes April 1st, 2022, as the day after which the Tax Collector may proceed to issue warrants for the collection on all rates and taxes then unpaid.*

*That the 2022 General Operating Budget totaling \$19,041,550 for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2022, be approved.*

**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Maclsaac  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Chisholm  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:** *That the 2022 Water Utility Operating Budget be approved as presented today.*

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

**7. NOMINATIONS FOR PUBLIC MEMBERS OF THE ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MOTION: *WHEREAS vacancies existed on the Accessibility Advisory Committee for the Municipality of the County of Inverness;*

*AND WHEREAS the vacancies were publicly advertised pursuant to the Public Appointment Policy for the Municipality of the County of Inverness;*

*AND WHEREAS the Nominating Committee of the Municipality of the County of Inverness met on May 20, 2021 and nominated Aaron MacDonald and Maggie MacDonald to fill two (2) vacancies on the Accessibility Advisory Committee for the Municipality of the County of Inverness;*

*BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of the County of Inverness does hereby appoint Aaron MacDonald and Maggie MacDonald as members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee for the Municipality of the County of Inverness, with each appointment being for a term of three (3) years, commencing on this 3rd day of June, 2021.*

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

**8. FIRST READING: BY-LAW TO AMEND BY-LAW 30: CAPITAL COST OF SEWER AND WATER CONSTRUCTION**

MOTION: *That First Reading be given to the "By-Law to Amend By-Law 30: Capital Cost of Sewer & Water Construction":*

*By-Law 30: Capital Cost of Sewer & Water Construction is hereby amended as follows:*

*(1) by adding immediately following subsection 14(m) thereof, the following subsection:*

*(n) In the area served by the Inverness Sewer and Water system, namely Maple Street, the frontage rate is hereby set at \$28.01 per lineal foot for sewer and water.*

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

**MOTION:** *That the Second Reading and Public Hearing of the “By-Law to Amend By-Law 30: Capital Cost of Sewer and Water Construction” will be held on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.*

**Moved BY:** Deputy Warden Maclsaac

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Gillis

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 9. RECOMMENDATIONS

### a. APPROVAL OF J CLASS ROAD PAVING PROJECT 2021-2022

**MOTION:** *That Council approve the written offer by the Department of Transportation and Active Transit dated April 21, 2021 to pave, as part of the 2021-2022 50% Cost Shared J Class Road Paving Project, the sections of Lovers Lane, Lochness Street, and Old Deepdale Road outlined in that written offer, and that Warden Cranton is authorized to sign the Notice of Acceptance found at page 3 of that written offer.*

**Moved BY:** Deputy Warden Maclsaac

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Gillis

**MOTION CARRIED**

### b. ROAD NAME CHANGE – TOBEY’S LANE

**MOTION:** *That an unnamed private lane on Port Hood Island, identified in the Road Name Change Petition Form included in the Council Package for the Committee of the Whole Meeting held May 20, 2021, be re-named as “Tobey’s Lane”.*

**Moved BY:** Councillor Chisholm

**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Maclsaac

**MOTION CARRIED**

### c. APPROVAL OF EASTERN DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSION INTER-MUNICIPAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

**MOTION:** *That Council approve the Eastern District Planning Commission Inter-Municipal Services Agreement dated July 1, 2021, a copy of which was included in the Council Package for the Committee of the Whole Meeting held May 20, 2021, which varies and replaces the Inter-Municipal Services Agreement dated July 1, 2018, and that Warden Cranton and CAO Keith MacDonald are authorized to sign that Agreement on behalf of the Municipality.*

**Moved BY:** Deputy Warden Maclsaac

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Chisholm  
**MOTION CARRIED**

d. APPROVAL OF EASTERN DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF APPOINTMENTS

**MOTION:** *That Council approve the new Eastern District Planning Commission staff appointments:*  
*- Building Inspector: Amanda Esterbrooks*  
*- Alternate: André Samson*  
*- Alternate Development Officer: Lee-Ann Martin (Replacing Lewis Pope)*

**Moved BY:** Councillor Gillis  
**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Maclsaac  
**MOTION CARRIED**

e. 2021 WATER OPERATING EXPENSES

**MOTION:** *That Council fund the 2021 Water Operating Expenses from the Gas Tax Reserve in the amount of \$56,443.14.*

**Moved BY:** Councillor Gillis  
**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Maclsaac  
**MOTION CARRIED**

f. LOAN GUARANTEE – MABOU AND DISTRICT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

**MOTION:** *That That Council approve the loan guarantee request for the Mabou and District Volunteer Fire Department in the amount of \$301,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a new pumper truck:*

*WHEREAS the Mabou and District Volunteer Fire Department is a registered fire department with the Municipality of the County of Inverness;*

*WHEREAS the Mabou and District Volunteer Fire Department is incorporated by the Societies Act;*

*WHEREAS the Mabou and District Volunteer Fire Department has determined to borrow the aggregate principal amount of \$301,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a new pumper truck by special resolution on the 12th day of February 2020, as per Section 10(d) of the Societies Act;*

*WHEREAS the Mabou and District Volunteer Fire Department has requested the Municipality of the County of Inverness; to guarantee the said borrowing;*

*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 Mabou and District Volunteer Fire Department of \$301,000.00 for the purpose set out above;*

*THAT subject to the approval of the Minister of the 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 Clerk 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 Chisholm  
**MOTION CARRIED**

g. DUPLICATE TAX ACCOUNT WRITE OFF REQUEST – M MORRIS

**MOTION:** *That Council not amend the billing for the 2018-2019 taxation year for the following tax accounts: 10757177, 10757185, 10757193.*  
**MOVED BY:** Councillor Gillis  
**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Maclsaac  
**MOTION CARRIED**

h. CHEMICAL STORAGE BUILDING

**MOTION:** *That Council approve the budget for the supply and delivery of a Chemical Storage Unit for 420 West Lake Road, Kenloch in the amount of \$39,230.38*  
**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Maclsaac  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Chisholm  
**MOTION CARRIED**

i. ESTABLISH PW8 AND TREATMENT UPGRADES – INVERNESS

**MOTION:** *That Council approve the budget for the establishment of PW8 and Treatment Upgrades in the village of Inverness in the amount of \$400,955.16.*

**Moved BY:** Councillor Gillis

**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Maclsaac

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **10. NEXT MEETING DATE**

June 17, 2021: Committee of the Whole

June 30, 2021: Regular Council

**MOTION:** *That Council approve the date of Wednesday June 30, 2021 for the next Regular Council meeting due to the July 1 Holiday being on the first Thursday of the month.*

**Moved BY:** Deputy Warden Maclsaac

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Chisholm

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** *That Council adjourn at 5:06 pm.*

**Moved BY:** Deputy Warden Maclsaac

**MOTION CARRIED**