

Municipality of the County of Inverness
Committee of the Whole Meeting
Thursday, July 22nd, 2021
9:30 am
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
Christine Murray, Manager of Legal and Governance
Debbie Nicholson, Administrative Assistant to Council
Tanya Tibbo, Director of Finance
Karolyn Aucoin, Communications and Community Engagement Specialist
Donna MacDonald, Director of Tourism and Culture
Charlotte MacDonald, Manager of Recreation
Chestley Carr, Manager of Water and Wastewater
Ellen Murphy, Manager of Infrastructure
Trudy Gillis, Manager of Environmental and Facilities Compliance
Erin Gillis, Manager of Operations and Occupational Health and Safety

1. CALL TO ORDER

Warden Cranton called the meeting to order at 9:30 am and welcomed all in attendance. Roll call was taken.

Warden Cranton read the following message to Council:

Before we begin today's meeting, I'd like to take a moment to recognize the passing of the former Municipal Director of Recreation, Tourism, Adult Education and Community Development, Johnny Cotton. He retired in 2007 after 30 years of service to his community. Johnny was well respected by his colleagues and communities throughout Inverness County. It didn't matter who you were - Johnny treated everyone equally and with compassion.

With his cheerful disposition he was always encouraging and helping community organizations. He charted the course and tirelessly promoted healthy and active living for all ages as a true advocate for the community. He advocated for sports, tourism, culture,

economic and community development and school and community partnerships. His goal was always to make Inverness County a better place for all of us, and that is a legacy we should honour every day in our own work. On behalf of Council and Staff, I would like to express our sincere sympathy and condolences to his friends and family.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: That the agenda be approved as presented.
MOVED BY: Councillor MacLennan
SECONDED BY: Deputy Warden MacIsaac
MOTION CARRIED

3. STAFF REPORTS

a) Water and Wastewater Operations, Chestley Carr

Multiple projects are ongoing and underway within water and wastewater operations including: SCADA Stage 2 upgrades, chlorine pump repairs, sink and hot water heater installation, lift station control panel replacements in Chéticamp and Whycomomagh, Chéticamp lift station # 6 replacement, lift station # 4 replacement in Whycomomagh and the Inverness water treatment plant control panel replacement. The new cl2 liquid ends were received from Samson Equipment. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

b) Infrastructure Unit, Ellen Murphy

Monthly highlights include water, sewer and asphalt repairs. Water and wastewater facility repairs and maintenance are ongoing. Additional projects include lawn maintenance, streetlight repairs, JCB skid steer repair, and serving prep work. Action items resulting from monthly Occupational Health and Safety meetings are being addressed. Employee Ray MacLellan retired after thirteen years with the Municipality. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

c) Operations and Occupational Health and Safety, Erin Gillis

Data collection for the ReCollect app is underway. This app will provide users with information on waste separation and collection routes. Road repairs to the Kenloch Waste Management Facility are underway. A line breakdown at the Strathlorne Recycling Facility has led to a backlog in material. Cape Breton solid waste education campaigns are underway. The Kenloch chemical storage building project is on time. There are many additional projects underway within the Kenloch and Strathlorne facilities. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

Councillors asked about opportunities for a community clean-up.

Erin Gillis noted that Provincial funding for Community Clean Ups is available through the Great Nova Scotia Pick-Me-Up program, and in the interim, if a community group collects roadside garbage and brings that garbage to Kenloch, the group would not be charged a tipping fee for the roadside garbage that was collected by the group.

d) Environmental Compliance, Trudy Gillis

Ongoing projects include the Solids Management Plan, weekly updates to Nova Scotia Environment, a leak detection program, and the development of a water conservation program with the Clean NS Summer Students. Six raw water annual reports have been completed and the work on the manhole flow monitoring equipment is finished. The inventory of all lift station assets and equipment is underway. Meetings with contractors for various Municipal projects are ongoing as are requests for information. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

e) Department of Finance, Tanya Tibbo

The General Operating Fund Income Statement as of July 21, 2021 was presented to Council. Councillor Chisholm commented that communications other than social media should be used to notify residents of errors on tax bills, as was the case for the due date for District 5 tax bills..

f) Department of Tourism and Culture, Donna MacDonald

Monthly highlights include the Summer Promotions, Community Branding/Signage, Outdoor Musical Instruments installations, and meetings with Cultural Centres. Ongoing projects include Margaree and Whycocomagh projects, the We'koqma'q Skye River Trail Project, the Welcome Network, the Back to Work Project, Judique Brand and Streetscapes, and the Coastal Experiences Wayfinding Signage. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

Deputy Warden MacIsaac suggested that community groups should notify the RCMP in advance of any outdoor events this summer.

g) Department of Recreation, Charlotte MacDonald

Highlights include Multi Sport events in various communities hosted by the Municipality's summer students, the Gender Equity Project, Accessibility Project funding, and the completion of the first Race Series of the summer. Ongoing projects include the Community Voices Phone Line, Unstructured Movement, Find the Fiddle Challenge, CB Connect Review, the development of internal wellness webinars, and the Seniors Safety and Accessibility Coordinator positions. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

h) Special Projects, Melanie Beaton

Special Projects continues to advance the work of cross functional internal teams, in partnership with various consultant teams, stakeholders and regulatory bodies. Multiple projects within various Municipal Water and Wastewater facilities are ongoing. The Chemical Storage Building is due to be brought to the Kenloch site the week of July 19, 2021. The Port Hood Public Wharf demolition project is underway with an expected finish date of the end of July, 2021. Multiple community projects are in progress. Meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

4. PRESENTATION: RECREATION DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION; Donna MacDonald

In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, The Municipal Volunteer Recognition Celebration was cancelled. The pandemic forced the Department of Tourism and Culture to take an overall review of the Volunteer Program and seek an alternative approach to celebrating our valued volunteers safely. This year, nominations were received for thirty two Volunteers. Along with their certificate of recognition, each nominee received a \$50 Gift Card from an Inverness County business of their choice. Our 2021 Inverness County Provincial Representative (Stephen MacMillan) received his Certificate of Appreciation along with a \$100 gift certificate to a business of his choice. Nominees are being highlighted individually on the Municipal Facebook page and the Municipal website throughout the year. Highlights are posted on Monday of each week from May to December.

5. REMOVAL OF DANGEROUS TREES

As a result of the April 3, 2021 ice storm, many trees and branches were bent and broken under the weight of freezing rain and high winds. Some of these trees and branches were collected and hauled away by a contractor hired by the Department of Transportation and Active Transit (DTAT). However, many piles of uncollected branches remain roadside, and entangled in trees creating a hazardous situation.

Recommendation to Council that a letter be drafted to the Office of the Premier, and copied to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, and MP Kelloway, and Steve MacDonald with DTAT stressing the need for immediate attention to be brought to the situation of dangerous trees and branches within the Municipality as the result of the April 2021 ice storm.

The CAO will arrange a meeting with representatives from DTAT as soon as possible to present to Council.

6. REVIEW: MUNICIPAL NOISE CONTROL BY-LAW

Some Councillors have been receiving complaints of excessive noise. The Municipality has a Noise By-Law. However, the language in this By-Law is outdated.

Recommendation to staff to review the Municipal Noise By-Law and bring revisions to a future meeting of Council.

7. COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS

a) Orangedale Improvement Society – roofing repairs

The current request of the Municipality is \$10,000.00

Recommendation to Council to fund this request in full in the following manner:

- District # 4 Community District Funding- \$5,000.00
- Tourism Strategy - \$5,000.00

b) Storyteller’s Gallery – energy efficiency/ repairs

The current request of the Municipality is \$19,498.93

Recommendation to Council to not fund this current request at this time, but to support the project, and the organization in finding alternate sources of funding.

c) Meat Cove Development and C@P – Roof Repairs, Bridge and Boardwalk Improvements

The current request of the Municipality is \$4,500.00.

Recommendation to Council to fund this request in full in the following manner:

- District # 1 Community District Funding - \$4,500.00

8. CAPITAL BUDGET

Staff continue to prioritize the Capital Budget.

On Thursday, July 29th at 9:30 am a Special Meeting will be held to further discuss the Capital Budget.

11:27 am – Councillor MacLennan left the meeting

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- **Eastern District Planning Commission** – June 2021 Building Permit Statistics were included in the Council package.
- **Department of Municipal Affairs** – Correspondence was received from the Minister of Municipal Affairs Brendan Maguire confirming that the damages caused by the April 2021 ice storm do not qualify for any Disaster Financial Assistance Programs.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

Thursday, July 29th – Special (Budget) Meeting

Thursday, August 5th – Regular meeting of Council

11. "IN CAMERA"

The purpose of entering into "In Camera" at today's meeting is to discuss matters relating to:

- a. The acquisition, sale, lease or security of Municipal property

MOTION: *That Council Move to "In Camera" at 11:29 am*

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Maclsaac

SECONDED BY: Councillor Gillis

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: *That Council Move out of "In Camera" at 11:51 am*

MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis

SECONDED BY: Councillor Chisholm

MOTION CARRIED

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *That Council adjourn at 11:52 am*

MOVED BY: Councillor Chisholm

MOTION CARRIED

