

**Municipality of the County of Inverness  
Committee of the Whole Meeting  
Thursday, August 19th, 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  
Chestley Carr, Water/Wastewater Operations Manager  
Charlotte MacDonald, Manager of Recreation  
Ellen Murphy, Manager of Infrastructure  
Erin Gillis, Manager of Operations and Occupational Health and Safety

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Warden Cranton called the meeting to order at 9:35 am and welcomed all in attendance. Roll call was taken.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden MacIsaac

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Gillis

**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, leak detection training for department staff, lift station control panel replacements in Chéticamp and Whycocomagh, Chéticamp lift station # 6 replacement, and the Inverness water treatment plant control panel replacement. Low water pressure on the Banks

Road, Inverness resulted in the purchase of 2 new pumps and an extra skid. Increased pressure and the accommodation for future expansion will result. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue. Chestley Carr noted that Sight Point is a potential location for future water exploration for the village of Inverness. He also noted that due to the large build-up of disposable wipes in the Whycocomagh sewage treatment plant, an educational approach on proper disposal of these wipes would be ideal.

**(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. Seasonal employees are being trained in traffic control and signage. New service lines will be installed for some property owners at Laughlin Drive in Judique. Ellen Murphy will check with Hilltop Electrical on the status of the Chéticamp decorative street light repairs. 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 nearly complete with an expected launch in the Fall. The Kenloch chemical storage facility is on site. A waste audit is scheduled for the upcoming months. Line repairs have been made at the Strathlorne Recycling Facility. A backlog of product has resulted from this line break. Options for the disposal and sale of recycled product are being explored. Waste education initiatives continue, with site audits, visits to public spaces, and an online campaign. There are many additional projects underway within the Kenloch and Strathlorne facilities. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

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

Ongoing projects include the Solids Management Plan, weekly updates to Nova Scotia Environment, leak detection training, lead and copper sampling media campaign and the development of a water conservation program with the Clean Nova Scotia Summer Students. Inverness and Chéticamp outfall work continues. Wastewater Treatment Facility Audits will begin with Nova Scotia Environment in 2021. 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**

Recent highlights for the Department of Finance include the 2021 Tax Collection, the July 29, 2021 Tax Sale, and the 2022 Capital Budget. Ongoing projects and tasks include tender posting

and evaluation, easements and land issues, cash receipting, property tax rebates, customer inquiries, arrears notices, payroll, deposits, meter install, inspection and replacements, invoicing, HST rebates and returns and the 2021 Audit. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

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

Monthly highlights include the Summer Promotions, Back to Work Project and CB Island Year of Music. 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. The recent Summer Fest Concert at the Inverness Beach was very well attended. Municipal staff will research flag protocol for the Administration Building. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

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

Summer programming continues, with the summer students finishing on August 21<sup>st</sup>. The Youth Race series was very well received, and is hoped to be an annual event. The Find the Fiddle contest has ended with 27 entries and 4 winners. Beach day and daily skills and drills events continue throughout the County. Staff is working with Community Groups and Community Programmers towards program offerings now that COVID restrictions have been reduced. The internal wellness program will start in September with monthly webinars and lunch and learns for staff to promote a healthy lifestyle and workplace. 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 tender for the detailed design of the linear water/wastewater infrastructure along Highway 19 in Inverness has been awarded and a pre-construction survey is being advanced. Multiple community projects are in progress. Meetings within the department and with external partners continue. Melanie Beaton and Keith MacDonald, CAO, confirmed their availability to meet with Deputy Warden MacIsaac and the Inverness Development Association on September 8, 2021, at the request of the Inverness Development Association to review the Growth Strategy Report and upcoming projects.

**4. PRESENTATION: Steve MacDonald, Department of Transportation and Active Transit**

Steve MacDonald provided Council with recent projects by the Department of Transportation and Active Transit within the Municipality. Some of these ongoing and completed initiatives include

grading and patching throughout the County, ice storm damage repairs, bridge structure repairs, the Brook Village bridge replacement, Gypsum Mine traffic concerns, and Trunk 19 Infrastructure project discussions. Councillors were each given the opportunity to ask questions of Mr. MacDonald regarding specific concerns in their district. Any questions not answered during today's update will be addressed by Mr. MacDonald in the near future.

#### **5. UPDATE: Invitation to Bell Representatives**

Christine Murray, Manager Legal and Governance, informed Council that Staff had invited the Area Manager for Bell to attend Council meetings in July and August to discuss the loss of landline services during power outages, but due to scheduling conflicts, the Area Manager was unable to attend those meetings. Most recently, Staff have invited the Area Manager to attend a September meeting of Council to discuss this matter. A response from Bell to this invitation is expected by next week.

#### **6. UPDATE: Melanie Beaton; Special Projects**

- a. Chéticamp Outfall Tender: The Chéticamp Outfall was damaged during Hurricane Dorian in September 2019. Municipal staff recently received the engineered drawings and a draft tender package for the repair project. It is expected that the tender will be ready to post by Thursday, August 26, 2021 and it will be open for a minimum of two weeks.
- b. Whycocomagh Wastewater Treatment Plant, Design and Construction Oversight RFP: The Request for Proposals for this project is expected to be finalized, and posted by Thursday, August 26, 2021. The tender will be open for three to four weeks.
- c. Tender to establish PW8 in Inverness: This project tender for the Inverness water treatment facility closed on August 12, 2021. Two submissions were received. The tender is being awarded to the lowest bidder meeting specifications; Brilun Construction who submitted a bid of \$186,332.56.

#### **7. ROAD NAME CHANGE: BEATON ST. TO ALLAN J. MEMORIAL AVENUE**

Correspondence was received from the Eastern District Planning Commission regarding a proposed street name change in the village of Inverness. A petition was presented to Council to have the name of "Beaton Street" changed to "Allan J. Memorial Avenue", in honour of Allan J. MacEachen, who grew up on Beaton Street. In the ensuing discussion, some Councillors were concerned about ensuring that Council had enough historical information regarding the history of the name "Beaton Street" prior to changing the name of the street.

Deputy Warden MacIsaac stepped away from the meeting to place a call to Mr. Ben MacKay of Inverness, who had prepared the petition, to ask for more information regarding the history of

the name “Beaton Street”. Deputy Warden MacIsaac then returned to the Council meeting, to relay the information Mr. MacKay provided: that the name “Beaton Street” originated from a former mine manager in Inverness.

Deputy Warden MacIsaac made a recommendation to Council that Beaton St. in Inverness be renamed to “Allan J Memorial Avenue”, pending receipt of additional information on the origin of the Beaton Street name. Deputy Warden MacIsaac will contact Mr. MacKay in advance of the September regular meeting of Council and report back to Council.

## **8. COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS**

### **a) Chéticamp Kinsmen Club - Meals on Wheels (Chéticamp / Grant Etang)**

The current request of the Municipality is \$5,000.00.

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

- District # 1 CDC Funding - \$2,500.00
- District # 2 CDC Funding - \$2,500.00

### **b) La Cooperative de Transport de Chéticamp (L’Acabie) – Fleet Addition**

The current request of the Municipality is \$14,000.00.

Recommendation to Council to not fund this request, but rather assist the organization in seeking Federal funding, in addition to other levels of government funding. Staff will assist in the preparing a comparative analysis of funding for both Strait Area Transit and L’Acabie and review their fleet management.

## **9. UPDATE: VENDING BY-LAW: CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS**

Christine Murray, Manager Legal and Governance, updated Council on the status of the Vending By-Law. The Municipality received numerous comments from those involved in the vending industry at the August 5<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing, and as such, Municipal staff want to ensure that due consideration is given to all questions and concerns raised and that the process for moving forward with the Vending By-Law is not rushed. As this Agenda item will involve a comprehensive discussion, Municipal staff are recommending that this item be reviewed in detail at the September Committee of the Whole Meeting. In advance of that meeting, Municipal staff will provide a comprehensive response to Council, addressing the feedback received at the public hearing.

## **10. CAPITAL BUDGET**

The final draft of the General Operations Capital Budget and the Water Utility Capital Budget for the 2022 fiscal year was presented by Tanya Tibbo, Director of Finance.

**MOTION:** *That the General Operations Capital Budget and the Water Utility Capital Budget for the 2022 fiscal year be approved as presented today.*  
**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden MacIsaac  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Chisholm  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **11. COUNCIL MEETING VENUE**

Consensus to hold the next Council meeting in person in Council Chambers following all COVID-19 protocols as issued by the Department of Public Health. The next meeting of Council will be the Regular Council meeting on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 at 3 pm.

#### **12. CORRESPONDENCE**

- Eastern District Planning Commission – July 2021 Building permit statistics were included in the Council package.
- Association of Municipal Administrators - an update on the public consultation period for the Coastal Protection Act Regulations was included in the Council package.

#### **13. NEXT MEETING DATE**

Thursday, September 2, 2021 3pm – Council Chambers

#### **14. IN CAMERA**

The purpose of entering into “In Camera” at today’s meeting is to discuss matters relating to:

- a) Litigation or potential litigation; and
- b) Personnel matters.

**MOTION:** *That the Council meeting move to “In Camera” at 12:38 pm*  
**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden MacIsaac  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Gillis  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:** *That the Council meeting move out of “In Camera” at 12:55 pm*  
**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden MacIsaac  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Gillis  
**MOTION CARRIED**

The video connection for the meeting was lost at approximately 12:55pm. Shortly afterward the meeting resumed by video conference.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *That Council adjourn at 1:06 pm*  
MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier  
MOTION CARRIED