

**Municipality of the County of Inverness
Committee of the Whole Meeting
Thursday, December 16th, 2021
9:30 am
Council Chambers**

MINUTES

Council: Deputy Warden Bonny MacIsaac
Councillor Alfred Poirier
Councillor John MacLennan
Councillor Lynn Chisholm
Councillor Catherine Gillis
Warden Laurie Cranton (via telephone)

Staff: Keith MacDonald, CAO
Tanya Tibbo, Director of Finance
Debbie Nicholson, Administrative Assistant to Council/ CAO
Melanie Beaton, Special Projects Facilitator
Karolyn Aucoin, Communications and Community Engagement Specialist
Donna MacDonald, Director of Tourism and Culture
Chestley Carr, Director of Public Works
Charlotte MacDonald, Manager of Recreation

1. CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Warden MacIsaac called the meeting to order at 9:30 am 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 Poirier
Seconded by: Councillor Gillis
MOTION CARRIED

3. STAFF REPORTS

(a) Water and Wastewater Operations, Chestley Carr

The VTS/SCADA project within the water and waste water unit has been completed. The Requests For Proposals for snow removal for the upcoming winter season have been finalized. Control panel replacement projects continue at various lift stations and water treatment plants throughout the

Municipality. The new booster pumps have been received for the Broad Cove Banks Road booster station project. The sink/hot water heater installation project is nearing completion. The winterization of Municipal Fire Hydrants is nearing completion. Water and Wastewater sampling continues to ensure standards and guidelines are met. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

(b) Infrastructure Unit, Ellen Murphy

Monthly highlights in infrastructure include water leak repairs, sewer repairs, and asphalt repairs. Asphalt and sidewalk repairs are completed. The water line replacement project for Laughlin Drive in Judique has been completed. Some of the streetlight repairs in the communities of Port Hood and Inverness have been completed with some new bulbs required for a few locations. Servicing work has been completed for the year with 21 property owners receiving new services to date. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

(c) Erin Gillis, Operations and Occupational Health and Safety

Solid waste audits occurred at the Port Hood Administrative office and Strathlorne recycling facility recently. The recycling education campaign was launched. Job opportunities have been posted for both the Kenloch and Strathlorne facilities. The bylaw enforcement officer spent a day with the by law officers in the Town of Antigonish. The Illegal Dumping By Law is being developed. The Kenloch ground water well replacement remains delayed due to approvals to cross Crown land to access the wellsite. Numerous projects are underway in Kenloch and Strathlorne. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

(d) Tanya Tibbo, Department of Finance

Property Tax activities included notice of tax sale letters, title changes, assessment changes and collections. Water Utility activities include collections, work orders, meter installs, disconnection letters, historical reads, curb locates, and water disconnections. Other department projects are underway including RFP development, land issues, cash receipting, accounts payable and the Volunteer Fire Department chiefs meeting. The Municipal Profile and Financial Conditions Indicators Results were presented. The overall assessment is low risk, which means that although the Municipality has a few challenges, it is considered low risk for fiscal instability. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

(e) Donna MacDonald, Department of Tourism and Culture

Recent highlights within the Department of Tourism and Culture include the Judique and Margaree Brand and Signage Projects, and the potential partnership with Beinn Mhabu. Multiple department projects are ongoing including Winter Promotions, Coastal Experience Signage, Newcomer Welcome Groups, Canada's Musical Coast Website & Promotional Video, and CB Island Year of Music. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

(f) Charlotte MacDonald, Department of Recreation

The deadline for Winter Active applications was December 6, 2021. The review of those applications is currently underway. In January 2022 the Recreation and Community Wellness will move from its current location at 375 Main Street to 86 High Road, Port Hood. Consultants will start interviewing Community Programmers, Recreation Organizations and providers in preparation for the Physical Activity Strategy & Recreation Master Plan. The Rental Equipment maintenance will begin next week. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

(g) Melanie Beaton, Special Projects

Recent advancements have been made with the Inverness WTP, PW8 Upgrades, the Sanitary Sewer and Water Main Replacement Project in Strathlorne and Inverness, Judique well exploration, and the Cheticamp Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall Replacement Project. Many miscellaneous projects are ongoing including asset management, physician and healthcare attraction and retention, the energy demand and renewable heat feasibility study, and numerous community development initiatives. Special projects staff are currently participating in training opportunities. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

4. PRESENTATION: CAPE BRETON PARTNERSHIP: Lynne MacLennan, Tyler Mattheis, Kelly MacKinnon

The Cape Breton Partnership works to promote Cape Breton island as a place to work and invest. Staff connect businesses to the supports they need such as advisory services, marketing and promotion and strategic planning. In Inverness County, 123 new files have been started including business improvement, expansion and start up. Economic Development Projects such as the Strait of Canso gateway project and Housing Studies are underway. The Human Resources and Immigration Support Team are focused on supporting employers in meeting their staffing needs. The Cape Breton Job Board has 188 Cape Breton Employers signed up and actively posting. Settlement, Integration & Inclusion programs play an exceptional role to help make Cape Breton a destination of choice and support the settlement and integration of professionals and their families.

5. AAN 08821372 – REQUEST FOR RELIEF OF INTEREST

A request of relief of interest was received from Jurgen P. Schooner regarding his mother's property located at 145 Godfrey Rd., Inverside. Current interest owing is \$4045.51.

Recommendation to Council that the request from Jurgen Schooner for the Municipality to write off interest on assessment account number 08821372 be denied.

6. STRAIT AREA GROUND SEARCH AND RESCUE

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

Recommendation to Council to fund this request in full with funds coming from Grants to Organizations.

Recommendation to Council to meet with all Search and Rescue organizations within the Municipality.

7. PITU'PAQ CONTRIBUTION

The current request of the Municipality is \$2,000.00

Recommendation to Council to fund this request in full with funds coming from Grants to Organizations.

8. ROUNDTABLE MEETING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND ACTIVE TRANSIT RE: PORT HASTINGS ROTARY

Recommendation to Council that a meeting be held with the Department of Transportation and Active Transit regarding the proposed Port Hastings rotary redesign.

Recommendation to Council that a letter be written to the Minister of Transportation and Active Transit and MLA MacMaster for *Bienvenue* to be included at welcome signage at the Port Hastings Roundabout.

9. COVID-19 UPDATE

Cases of Covid-19 have been increasing across the province in recent days with cases being confirmed in Inverness County. Steps being taken by the Municipality include:

- A reminder to staff of best practices to avoid the spread of Covid-19
- The possibility of a testing program for Municipal staff
- The possibility of rapid test distribution in partnership with the Eastern Counties Regional Library

10. RETURNING OFFICER

Pursuant to Section 4 (1) of the *Municipal Elections Act*, Council must appoint a returning officer to conduct the special election for District 1 Councillor will be held on March 5, 2022. Section 4 (1A) states that Council may also appoint an assistant returning officer who shall assist the returning officer in carrying out the returning officer's duties.

Recommendation to Council that Tanya Tibbo be appointed as Returning Officer and Danita Gillis as Assistant Returning Officer for the March 5th, 2022 Special Election for District 1 Councillor.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

- **Eastern District Planning Commission** – November 2021 Building Permit Statistics were included in today's Council package.

12. NEXT MEETING DATE

Thursday, January 6, 2022 – Regular Meeting of Council

Acknowledgement was made that today is the last Council Meeting for District 1 Councillor Alfred Poirier. Councillor Poirier will retire on December 31, 2021. Deputy Warden Maclsaac presented Councillor Poirier with a gift on behalf of Council and staff of the Municipality.

13. "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
- b. Legal advice eligible for solicitor-client privilege

MOTION: *That Council Move to "In Camera" at 11:44 am*
MOVED BY: Councillor Chisholm
SECONDED BY: Councillor Gillis
MOTION CARRIED

*Councillor Gillis declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting at 11:46 am
Councillor Gillis returned to Council Chambers at 11:58 am*

MOTION: *That Council Move out of "In Camera" at 12:14 pm*
MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier
SECONDED BY: Councillor Chisholm
MOTION CARRIED

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *That Council adjourn at 12:14 pm*
MOVED BY: Councillor Chisholm
MOTION CARRIED