

**Municipality of the County of Inverness
Committee of the Whole Meeting
Thursday, February 17th, 2022
9:30 am
Video Conference**

MINUTES

Council: Deputy Warden Bonny MacIsaac
Councillor John MacLennan
Councillor Lynn Chisholm
Councillor Catherine Gillis
Warden Laurie Cranton

Staff: Keith MacDonald, CAO
Tanya Tibbo, Director of Finance
Debbie Nicholson, Administrative Assistant to Council/ CAO
Karolyn Aucoin, Communications and Community Engagement Specialist
Donna MacDonald, Director of Tourism and Culture
Chestley Carr, Director of Public Works
Ellen Murphy, Manager of Infrastructure
Trudy Gillis, Manager of Environmental and Facilities Compliance
Erin Gillis, Manager of Operations and Occupational Health and Safety
Charlotte MacDonald, Manager of Recreation

1. CALL TO ORDER

Warden Cranton 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 Gillis
Seconded by: Deputy Warden MacIsaac
MOTION CARRIED

3. STAFF REPORTS

(a) Water and Wastewater Operations, Chestley Carr

The Dunmore water treatment plant filter replacement project has been completed. The project was a huge success. All four filters were replaced and two more were installed allowing for a much

greater production volume. The addition of a new drilled well in the future will allow for an even larger production volume. Multiple replacement projects continue within municipal water and waste water treatment plants. 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, asphalt repairs and curb stop repairs. Snow removal, sanding and salting are continuing as needed. An internal servicing plan is being prepared for Silverwood Lane, Inverness. Water and waste water facility maintenance and upkeep continue. Action items resulting from the Occupational Health and Safety meeting are being addressed. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

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

Education campaigns are ongoing for solid waste pickup and waste reduction. Challenges continue with curbside collections. Winter weather has resulted in some cancellations and rescheduling. Preparations are underway for a spring community cleanup. Online forms are being developed for reports of illegal dumping, noise and dog complaints. A review of the current emergency plan is underway. Preparations are ongoing for the annual Nova Scotia Environment annual reports. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

(d) Trudy Gillis, Environmental Compliance

Operator handbooks have been developed for distribution to Municipal staff. An amendment application has been submitted for the Port Hood water supply to correctly reflect both wells and treatment plants. Weekly and monthly reports to Nova Scotia Environment are ongoing. The development of an asset management structure for Infrastructure and Emergency Management is being developed. Nova Scotia Environment inspection reports and directives are being addressed as required. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

(e) Tanya Tibbo, Department of Finance

Due to Covid protocols, the Tax Sale originally scheduled for February 4th was cancelled and a new date for a public tender sale is being planned. Loading of the 2022 Tax Role, title changes, assessment changes and collections are underway. Water Utility activities include collections, work orders, meter installs, historical reads, and curb locates. Other department projects are underway including RFP development, land issues, cash receipting, and accounts payable. The District 1 Special Election planning has begun and 2023 Budget Development is underway. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

(f) Donna MacDonald, Department of Tourism and Culture

Staff has begun promoting the 2022 Volunteer program via newspaper, social media and mail. Based on the success of last year, this year's program will roll out the same as 2021. Weekly nominees will be named on the Municipal Facebook page and will receive a gift card from a business of their choice. The deadline to register is April 22, 2022. Additional department projects include Canada's Musical Coast Signage, the Newcomer Welcome Network, website refresh, promotional videos and Cape Breton Island Year of Music. Multiple meetings within the department and with external funding partners and organizations continue.

(g) Charlotte MacDonald, Department of Recreation

The Municipal Trails Ambassador/Trails Assistant has begun and is developing a survey for trail development groups and users' groups. Department staff are working with REConsulting towards phase 2 of the Physical Activity Strategy & Recreation Master Plan. Winter school-based programming is pending and has reconvened with limited registrations. The Accessibility Committee has met and is developing a first draft of the Plan. The department is working to secure instructors, volunteers and funding toward Spring Multi Sport programs in both Port Hood and Inverness. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

(h) Melanie Beaton, Special Projects

The Special Projects Team has continued to lead and facilitate many meetings on a vast profile of internal and external projects in partnership with consultant teams, project stakeholders, and community residents. Construction will resume in March 2022 of the Sanitary Sewer & Water Main Replacement Project, Highway 19, Strathlorne/Inverness with the installation of the proposed sewer lift station. Multiple Internal Complex Infrastructure projects continue, as weather allows. Many Community projects are in development, and facility and equipment upgrades are underway. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

4. PRESENTATION: Cape Breton Regional Hospital Foundation: Paula MacNeil, Mike MacPhee, Dr. Rex Dunn, Martha Campbell

The Cape Breton Regional Hospital Foundation was established in 1985 to lobby for the Cape Breton Regional Hospital. The Cancer Care at Home campaign is currently underway with a goal to raise \$10,000,000.00. Funds raised will be focused in three main areas; vital equipment, patient programs and research and innovation and will ensure the new Cape Breton Cancer Centre is equipped to deliver a high standard of care now and into the future.

5. PRESENTATION: Inverness County Centre for the Arts: Ash Young

The Inverness County Centre for the Arts opened in 2003 and to date as hosted many exhibitions, art related events, concerts, workshops and more. Year-round programming has continued through the pandemic. Upcoming programming for 2022 includes exhibitions, indoor concerts, film screenings, literary readings, workshops and more. The centre is proposing a new high level

presentation stage. This asset could facilitate high level presentations, and would be mobile, allowing for rental opportunities county wide.

6. SOURCE WATER PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A source water protection advisory committee is the first step in the process recommended by Nova Scotia Environment (NSE) for developing a source water protection plan. This would be a collaborative committee made up of stakeholders and government representatives. Actions that should be used in developing the committee were provided in today's Council package. Melanie Beaton, Municipal Special Projects Facilitator will update Council in future meetings on this initiative.

7. HART BRIDGE

The Hart Bridge in North East Margaree was extensively damaged following a heavy rain storm in November 2021 resulting in a detour over rough roads for local residents.

Recommendation that a letter be sent to the Minister of Transportation, and MLA MacMaster to address the damage caused to the Hart Bridge.

8. DRY HYDRANTS

The West Bay and District Volunteer Fire Department would like to see a replacement for dry hydrants that have deteriorated over the years. The Municipality does not have a funding mechanism that directly fits this concern, however staff are researching the issue, and will have an update for an alternate option at a future Council meeting.

9. COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS

a) Inverness/Victoria Federation of Agriculture: Machinery Rental (Building Renovations)

The current request of the Municipality is \$4,000.00

Recommendation to Council to fund this request in full with funds coming from the Regional CDG Funds.

b) Margaree Area Development Association: Replacement of Entry Doors

The current request of the Municipality is \$2,098.75

Recommendation to Council to fund this request in full with funds coming from District # 2 CDC budget.

c) Chéticamp Knights of Columbus: (KOC Building Renovations)

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

Recommendation to Council to fund this request in full with funds coming from District # 1 CDC budget.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- **Eastern District Planning Commission** – January 2022 Building Permit Statistics were included in the Council package.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE

Thursday, March 3, 2022 3:00 pm – Regular Meeting of Council

12. “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. Personnel

MOTION: *That Council Move to “In Camera” at 11:40 am*
MOVED BY: Councillor Chisholm
SECONDED BY: Councillor Gillis
MOTION CARRIED

Councillor Gillis left the meeting at 12:21 pm

MOTION: *That Council Move out of “In Camera” at 12:33 pm*
MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
SECONDED BY: Councillor Chisholm
MOTION CARRIED

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *That Council adjourn at 12:33 pm*
MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Maclsaac
MOTION CARRIED