

**Municipality of the County of Inverness
Special Meeting of Council
Thursday, March 24th, 2022
12:30 pm
Council Chambers**

MINUTES

Council: Warden Bonny MacIsaac
Deputy Warden Catherine Gillis
Councillor Lynn Chisholm
Councillor John MacLennan
Councillor Claude Poirier

Staff: Keith MacDonald, CAO
Tanya Tibbo, Director of Finance
Debbie Nicholson, Administrative Assistant to Council/CAO
Melanie Beaton, Special Projects Facilitator
Erin Gillis, Manager of Operations and Occupational Health and Safety

1. WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

Warden MacIsaac called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm and roll call was taken.

2. GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET

Director of Finance Tanya Tibbo presented a draft of the 2023 General Operating Budget.

- I. Revenue: Current revenue projections were provided
- II. Mandatory Contributions: Contributions of which the Municipality has no control; they account for 54% of the taxes levied by the Municipality
- III. Charitable Tax Exemptions: Charitable Tax Exempt properties per District were presented to Council (Schedule A)

MOTION: *That Council approve a charitable tax exemption per Section 71 of the Municipal Government Act for the attached Schedule A of charitable and not-for profit organizations and budget \$332,000.00 for the 2023 fiscal year.*

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Gillis

SECONDED BY: Councillor Chisholm

MOTION CARRIED

- IV. Cost of Living Allowance:
Recommendation to approve a cost of living increase of 1.96% for employees not subject to

performance based increases.

3. CAPITAL BUDGET

MOTION:

Following review of the completed project descriptions, overviews, consultant, and staff recommendations. Council of the Municipality of the County of Inverness agrees the following application is rated and recommended first (1st) priority for application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP)

1st Priority: Recapitalization of Central Avenue & Inverness Wastewater Treatment Plant & Outfall

Due to the age, condition, and regulation deficiencies the Inverness Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is a priority for replacement. While experiencing average daily flows, the WWTP is operating at 93% of its designed capacity. There is limited to no capacity to sustain residential or commercial growth. Significant improvements have been made and of late the Wastewater Treatment Plant has been meeting the effluent criteria specified in both Nova Scotia Environment's (NSE) Approval to Operate and the Federal Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations (WSER), the size and capacity of the plant and the lack of capacity to sustain growth remain a significant problem. Due to the wastewater treatment plants proximity to Cabot Links Golf Course and Inverness Beach both major attractions for visitors, in past the Municipality has received several odor and noise complaints due to poor treatment, aging and failing infrastructure, high flows and limited capacity. The Municipality, in partnership with engineering consultants have completed a System Assessment Report and Pre-Design Study of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection System and are moving into Detailed Design. The WWTP outfall pipe currently needs to be lengthened and repaired to ensure adequate mixing. The outfall repairs and the eventual commissioning of a newly constructed wastewater plant in Inverness will provide the Municipality the much-needed capacity to treat and manage existing and future flows while ensuring continued sustainability of commercial and residential growth.

The Nova Scotia Department of Public Works plans to resurface Central Avenue. This is a tremendous opportunity for the Municipality to replace the undersized and failing linear water and sanitary sewer main underneath Central Avenue to ensure the integrity of the resurfacing and the capacity of the conveyance and collection system to sustain commercial and residential growth.

This work is necessary and is of utmost priority for the Municipality and full support through the ICIP Program is necessary to make this work achievable and to properly position the Municipality and the community of Inverness to enable sustained commercial and residential growth. The cost share of this work is as follows:

Total Project Costs (net HST): \$24,410,500.25

Federal Contribution: \$9,764,200.10

Provincial Contribution: \$8,136,019.73

Municipal Contribution Ultimate Recipient Cost: \$6,510,280.42

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Gillis

SECONDED BY: Councillor Chisholm

MOTION CARRIED

4. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *That Council adjourn at 1:51 p.m.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Chisholm

MOTION CARRIED