

Municipality of the County of Inverness
Committee of the Whole Meeting
Thursday, April 21st, 2022
9:30 am
Council Chambers

MINUTES

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

Staff: Keith MacDonald, CAO
 Tanya Tibbo, Director of Finance
 Melanie Beaton, Special Projects Facilitator
 Karolyn Aucoin, Communications and Community Engagement Specialist
 Debbie Nicholson, Administrative Assistant to Council/ CAO
 Chestley Carr, Director of Public Works
 Erin Gillis, Manager of Operations and Occupational Health and Safety
 Charlotte MacDonald, Manager of Recreation
 Ellen Murphy, Manager of Infrastructure

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier

MOTION CARRIED

3. STAFF REPORTS

(a) Water and Wastewater Operations, Chestley Carr

The lift station # 4 Project in Cheticamp has been completed. Backup power will be available in the event of an outage. Whycocomagh replacements are being scheduled with Nova Scotia Power and Lynk Electric. The Judique wellfield # 4 pump test was completed. Other ongoing projects include

Convent Street Port Hood water treatment plant upgrades, sink/water heater installations, the Inverness water treatment plant control panel replacement, and the Broad Cove Banks Road booster station project. Water pressures tests will be conducted during the Port Hastings water storage tank repairs to ensure adequate pressure levels. Manager meetings, compliance meetings, and internal project team meetings continue.

(b) Infrastructure Unit, Ellen Murphy

Water leak repairs were conducted over the last month in the communities of Port Hastings and Port Hood. The backwash line installation at the Dunmore Road location was completed on April 13th. Sewer repairs, curb stop repairs, asphalt repairs and streetlight serving are ongoing. Upgrades to the parking lot at the Port Hood Administration building continue. Department staff participated in training opportunities for confined space rescue and flagging. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

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

Community clean up events are being planned in conjunction with the Great Nova Scotia Pick Me Up initiative. Complaints from residents concerning Green For Life (GFL) service are being received by department staff. A Household Hazardous Waste event is being planned for Strathlorne in May. The Strathlorne recycling building is being cleared and cleaned in anticipation of an increase in materials with walkways being painted and general repairs to the building and equipment. The bylaw enforcement officer is following up with training options on dog handling and necessary equipment needed. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

(d) Trudy Gillis, Environmental Compliance

Water and sewer annual reports were completed and submitted to Nova Scotia Environment. Quarter 1 Federal waste water reporting was completed. Operator daily checklist development and budget preparations are underway. Nova Scotia Environment Inspection Reports and directives continue to be addressed accordingly. A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for water meter reads is being developed in conjunction with the Finance Department. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

(e) Tanya Tibbo, Department of Finance

The tax sale was held by public tender on April 15th, 2022. 373 bids were received for 17 properties. Tanya Tibbo has met with consultants recently regarding the Municipal Water Rate Study. The Municipal auditors have arrived on site to begin the annual audit process. They are expected to be here for 2 weeks. The Special Election for a new District 2 Councillor will be held on June 4th with nominations closing on May 10th. A draft budget is being prepared and will hopefully be approved by Council by the end of May 2022. Collections continue in taxation and the water utility. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

(f) Donna MacDonald, Department of Tourism and Culture

Staff continue to receive information from community organizations for the 2022 Summer and Fall events brochure. Ongoing projects include Canada's Musical Coast Signage, the Newcomer Welcome Network, Website Refresh/Promotional videos, Cape Breton Island Year of Music, and Volunteer Recognition. Holly Matthews from Whycomomagh has graciously accepted to be the Provincial Volunteer representative for 2022. Holly was nominated by St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Whycomomagh. Multiple meetings within the department and with external funding partners and organizations continue.

(g) Charlotte MacDonald, Department of Recreation

The Phase 2 Engagement survey for the Recreation Master Plan has been built. Final preparation will be made and it should be released to the public this week. The Green Job position has completed and the trail utilization survey will be online soon. The Spring and Summer programming calendar is in development. Volunteers for the Multi Sport program are being sought. The Hike Summit will occur in person in Chéticamp on June 3, 4, and 5. The department is preparing for the Gender Equity Project Phase 2 student to start early in May. The student position will focus on policy development. Multiple projects continue including accessibility, wellness, trails, and equipment rentals. 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. The Highway 19 Linear Infrastructure Upgrades Project has remobilized on April 4th in Strathlorne. The contractor has begun the installation of the new sanitary lift station that will pump the sanitary flows collected from the sewer line extension into the gravity system. 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. UPDATE: Mike Kelloway, MP, Cape Breton Canso

MP Mike Kelloway spoke on some highlights from the recently announced Federal Budget that could be of interest to residents of Inverness County including:

- Tax Free First Home Savings Account and Home Buyer's Tax Credit
- Investments toward a public dental care program
- Multiple renewable energy initiatives.

Members of Council brought forward concerns including improved cell service, affordable housing, harbour dredging, as well as various funding opportunities available through ACOA. MP Kelloway intends to resume the operation of a mobile office throughout the Municipality soon.

5. PRESENTATION: DESTINATION CAPE BRETON; Terry Smith; Chief Executive Officer

Terry Smith provided an update on the Destination Cape Breton Tourism Strategy for 2022-2023. Highlights include:

- A steady increase in web site traffic over the last 5 years is a positive
- Overall visitation is expected to return to pre-pandemic levels in 2022
- Smaller concentrated events/ initiatives are planned; Year of Music events, season specific content (i.e. waterfalls), and niche markets (luxury, mountain biking, small meetings)
- Destination Cape Breton continues to work with industry partners to address the current labour shortage within the industry.

6. PRESENTATION: HORTON SOLAR INC.; Richard Lu, Abundant Solar Energy Inc; Joel MacNeil, TriMac Engineering

Richard Lu and Joel MacNeil are the proponents of a solar energy project proposed near the area of Horton Road, Lexington in Southern Inverness County. The 800 acre site was secured in May 2021. The project would proceed if approved by the province's Request for Proposals for Rate Based Procurement (RBP). Public engagement for the Horton Solar initiative is continuing through newspaper ads and a newly launched website. Winning the RBP will go to the proponent with the highest points in the scoring criteria. Letters of support for this initiative are welcome.

7. WHYCOCOMAGH SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT; Wipes in the System

Over the past year the waste collection system in the Whycomomagh area has seen a massive increase in flushable wipes. The cause seems to be linked directly to the Covid-19 pandemic. These flushable wipes end up in the lift stations and at the waste water treatment facility, causing a major impact on equipment, operations and the approval to operate. Since January 2022 repairs were done to aerators and lift stations. Approximately \$29,800.00 was spent on staffing, lift station cleaning and equipment repair. Notifications have been posted to the Municipal web site and facebook page alerting residents against flushing wipes that will hopefully rectify the situation.

8. SPRING 2022 HEAVY GARBAGE PICKUP

There has been a lot of public interest in a Spring 2022 Heavy Garbage Pickup. Staff has been directed to advertise a tender opportunity for the Spring 2022 Heavy Garbage Pickup to local contractors. Once quotes are received, they can be brought back to Council.

9. WIND TURBINE BY-LAW

Direction has been given to staff to review the current Municipal Wind Turbine By-Law. A Planning and Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting will be held on May 5th following the Regular Meeting of Council.

A recommendation that no development permit applications be received for small or large scale wind turbines for a period of six months while the Municipality reviews its Wind Turbine by-law was discussed. And upon that motion that Council consider additional time deemed necessary to complete that review process and possibly consider to extend that period by a further six months if necessary.

10. COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS

- **Margaree Area Development Association (Coady & Tompkins Library Efficiency Retrofit)**

The current request of the Municipality is \$6401.76

Recommendation to Council to fund this request in full with funds coming from unspent 2021-2022 District # 2 CDC funds.

- **Glendale & Area Community Co-operative (outdoor stage renovation)**

The current request of the Municipality is \$23,563.93

Recommendation to Council to fund this request as follows:

\$5,000.00 – District 6 2022-2023 CDC funding (pending budget approval)

\$6,781.97 – Regional CDC Budget

Remaining 50% (\$11,781.97) – to be carried forward into budget deliberations

11. SCOTIA WIND FUND

- **Lit Up Adventures (Phase 1 of MacFarlane Brook Trail Development)**

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

Recommendation to Council to fund this request in full with funds coming from the Scotia Wind Fund.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

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

13. NEXT MEETING DATE

Thursday, May 5, 2022 3:00 pm – Regular Meeting of Council

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *That Council adjourn at 12:19 pm*

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Gillis

MOTION CARRIED