

Municipality of the County of Inverness
Committee of the Whole Meeting
Thursday, June 16th, 2022
9:30 am
Council Chambers

MINUTES

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

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

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: Councillor Poirier
Seconded by: Councillor Chisholm
MOTION CARRIED

3. PROCLAMATION: YEAR OF THE GARDEN

The following proclamation was read by Warden MacIsaac:

Whereas the Year of the Garden 2022 celebrates the Centennial of Canada's horticulture sector and

Whereas gardens and gardening contribute to the quality of life of our municipality and create safe and healthy places where people can come together; and

Whereas the Year of the Garden 2022 will highlight and celebrate the important contributions of gardeners, the local gardening organizations, horticultural professionals and local horticulture businesses which contribute to garden culture and the experience of gardening in our municipality; and

Whereas gardens and gardening have helped us face the challenges of the COVID pandemic; and

Whereas Communities in Bloom, in collaboration with the Canadian Garden Council, invites all municipalities to celebrate the Year of the Garden; and

Whereas Saturday, June 18th, 2022 will be recognized as Garden Day in the Municipality of the County of Inverness as a legacy of the Canada's Year of the Garden 2022;

Whereas the Municipality of the County of Inverness is committed to be a Garden Friendly Municipality supporting the development of its garden culture.

Therefore, I Warden Bonny MacIsaac, on behalf of Inverness County Council, hereby proclaim 2022 as the "Year of the Garden" in the Municipality of the County of Inverness in celebration of the contribution of gardens and gardening to the development of our municipality.

4. STAFF REPORTS

(a) Water and Wastewater Operations, Chestley Carr

The new control panel at the Inverness water treatment plant has been installed and programmed. New control valves are needed to complete the project. The Broad Cove Banks Road booster station project is now 95 % completed, with electrical work still required. The Port Hastings water storage tank repairs project is now completed. Inspections are needed for the Convent St. water treatment plant upgrades. The backwash line at the Dunmore water treatment plant is now connected to the sanitary sewer. Preventative maintenance, sampling, and training opportunities continue. Manager meetings, compliance meetings, Joint Occupational Health and Safety, and internal project team meetings continue.

(b) Infrastructure Unit, Ellen Murphy

Water leak repairs, sewer repairs, and asphalt repairs continue throughout the Municipality. Assistance has been provided to Zutphen's Contractors with issues at the Hwy 19 project. Water leak detection is ongoing in the village of Whycomomagh with some leaks being identified on homeowner's properties. Painting and repairs were done at the Recreation Building in Port Hood.

Ongoing maintenance and repairs continue throughout the Municipality's water and waste water facilities. Lawn maintenance, streetlight repairs and air conditioning/heating improvements are ongoing. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

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

The 2022 Spring Heavy garbage pick up has concluded within the space of one week. Logistically it was a great success. The application process for community clean ups has begun. Capping activities continue at the Kenloch waste management site to ensure safe access to Construction and Demolition materials and to provide fire protection. Painting and cleaning are ongoing at the Strathlorne Recycling Facility. Training and site assessment is occurring with By Law Enforcement. The Emergency Measures Regional Exercise was completed. The historical waste clean up at the Kenloch site is scheduled for this summer, after the RFP process is completed. Multiple projects continue in Operations and meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

(d) Trudy Gillis, Environmental Compliance

This month the focus was on outlining an Operator's Training Program for existing and newly hired operations staff and responding to requests for information from various consultants. Various Nova Scotia Environment directives were responded to. Sampling bottles for second quarter and annual sampling were ordered. Incident Command System 100 and 200 training is funded through Operators Without Borders. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue such as the Public Works Director, the Inverness Wellfield Project, the Municipal Standards Specifications Committee and the Special Projects Team.

(e) Tanya Tibbo, Department of Finance

The focus recently has been to complete the 2023 General Operational Budget. The tax billing process has begun, and annual bills have begun to be issued from the Finance Department in recent days. The annual audit is coming to a conclusion. The facilities that operate within the Municipal Homes Corporation are compiling their materials for audit also, and once completed it will be presented to the Audit Committee. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

(f) Donna MacDonald, Department of Tourism and Culture

Donna MacDonald retired from the Municipality of the County of Inverness after thirty years of employment. A retirement gathering will be held with Municipal Council and staff during the afternoon of June 16th to thank Donna for her many years of service and dedication to the Municipality. The Summer and Fall events brochure has gone to print. Multiple department programs continue including signage, newcomer welcomes groups, CB Island year of Music, the Volunteer Recognition program, advertising initiatives and the Best Practice Mission. The Literacy program is wrapping up for the year, and will resume in October 2022. Multiple meetings within the department and with external funding partners and organizations continue.

(g) Charlotte MacDonald, Department of Recreation

With summer upon us, many initiatives in the Department of Recreation are well underway such as the Physical Activity and Recreation Master Plan, Gender Equity Phase 2, summer student employment, Wellness Committee recruitment, the Accessibility Awareness Campaign, and the June 18th Bike Rodeo. Summer Programming registration will open on June 20th with activities including the Race Series, Floor Ball Demo days, Race Circuit and the Family Friendly Trail Challenge on the schedule. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue including Parks Canada, Senior Safety, JOHSC (Joint Occupational Health and Safety), Multi Sport, Trails Federation and the Margaree Snowmobile Club.

(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. Internal Linear Infrastructure projects, and Internal Complex Infrastructure projects continue. Many community projects are in development, and facility and equipment upgrades are underway. The engineering student has been hired for the summer term and is assisting with various initiatives including the municipal standards development and proposal review. Multiple meetings within the department and with external partners continue.

5. PRESENTATION: Dana Pettipas and Katie Jamieson; YMCA of Cape Breton, NS Works Employment Services

The YMCA of Cape Breton offers employment assistance services under the common brand of Nova Scotia Works. Office location in Cape Breton include Sydney, New Waterford, Glace Bay, Port Hawkesbury and Inverness. Job seekers can find assistance in resume writing, interview preparation, career guidance and business start up advice. Employers can find help with recruitment efforts, and gain information on wage subsidies and hiring programs.

More information can be found by visiting: <https://capebreton.ymca.ca/employment-services/>

6. PRESENTATION: CHÉTICAMP ECONOMIC COUNCIL; Andre Bourgeois, Eric Chiasson and Dwayne Cormier

The Chéticamp Economic Council (CEC) is interested in obtaining the former NSLC building on Main St. in Chéticamp. The building has been empty for some time, and the CEC is interested in fostering the growth of a downtown pub at this location. A small brew operation has started in the village and is interested in becoming tenants in the building and sharing the building with other businesses. Meeting space and a performance space are additional options to be explored. The CEC could build an interactive space and help build the downtown area of Chéticamp. For the Municipality to sell or grant property there would be a process before any transfer could be done.

Recess: 10:32 am – 10:45 am

7. BUILDING PERMITS POLICY AMENDMENT

Mr. John Bain, Director with the Eastern District Planning Commission introduced a motion for the Commission to increase building permit fees effective July 1, 2022. This motion was passed by the District Planning Commission Board at their last meeting.

Recommendation that the Council of the Municipality of the County of Inverness in accordance with Section 49(1)(c)(ii) of the Municipal Government Act which states: “49 (1) The council may make policies... (c) setting and amending the fees to be paid for... (ii) an inspection required or conducted pursuant to a by-law of the municipality or an enactment,” adopt the fee structure presented in today’s Council package effective July 1, 2022.

Municipality of the County of Inverness
Policy to Amend By-law #25, Building By-law
Effective July 1, 2022

1. The fees for an application for and the issuance of a building permit shall be as follows:

a. Residential Construction: Including Modular and Mobile Homes (Part 9 National Building Code):

Forty Dollars (\$40.00) plus: \$2.00 per one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of construction value

b. Commercial/Institutional/Industrial Construction (Assembly Buildings - Part 3 National Building Code):

Forty Dollars (\$40.00) plus: \$3.00 per one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of construction value

c. Agricultural Buildings:

Forty Dollars (\$40.00) plus: \$1.50 per one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of construction value

d. For additions to, or alterations of, existing buildings (Renovations):

Forty Dollars (\$40.00) plus: \$2.75 per one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of construction value

e. Accessory Buildings (Buildings which are accessory, and less than 55 square metres in area, and only one storey in height):

One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) Flat Fee

2. Where any construction, repairs or alterations are commenced without issuance of a building permit, as required by the Act and the Building Code Regulations, the fee for issuance of a permit shall be double the amounts set out in subsection (1).

3. The fee for issuance of a renewal of a building permit, a development permit, or a demolition permit shall be a flat fee of \$40.00. No value of construction fee shall be charged.

4. Where a permit issued under this section is not used, and an application for a refund is made in writing to the building official within 30 days of issuance of the permit, the applicant shall receive a refund of 50% of the fee paid.

5. Residential construction value per square foot (including additions or alterations) is determined by using the annual Altus Group Canadian Cost Guide for the low end of the range for Custom Built Single Family Residential in Halifax or the contracted price of construction. All other construction prices per square foot will be based on the contracted price.

8. ACCESS TO RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Councillor Chisholm noted that she was approached by constituents with concerns about accessing recreational facilities such as ballfields and courts.

Recommendation to staff to review existing accessibility to recreation fields and bring back some options to Council to consider so the facilities can be safely accessed.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- Eastern District Planning Commission – May 2022 Building Permit Statistics were included in the Council package.
- Inverness County Centre for the Arts (ICCA) – Annual Funding.
 - ICCA is requesting a letter of support from the Municipality of the County of Inverness for an increase in funding from the Province of Nova Scotia. The Municipality is prepared to support this request.
 - ICCA is requesting an increase in their annual Municipal contribution. This request can be part of the 2023-2024 Municipal budget discussions.
- Municipality of the District of Guysborough – Sale of Guysborough Waste Management Facility – On, June 7th, 2022 the Municipality of the District of Guysborough (MODG) announced it has entered into a definitive agreement with GFL Environmental Inc. (GFL) for the sale of the Guysborough Waste Management Facility from MODG to GFL.
- Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board – Electoral Boundary Review. There is a mandated review of electoral boundaries of Municipalities in Nova Scotia. Consensus to direct staff to begin the RFP process for this work.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

July 7th, 2022 3:00 pm Regular Meeting of Council

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *That Council adjourn at 11:26 am*

MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier

MOTION CARRIED