

Municipality of the County of Inverness  
Regular Council Meeting  
Thursday, June 2nd, 2022  
Council Chambers  
3:00 pm

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  
Donna MacDonald, Director of Tourism and Culture  
Debbie Nicholson, Administrative Assistant to Council/CAO  
Karolyn Aucoin, Communications and Community Engagement Specialist  
Erin Gillis, Manager of Operations and Occupational Health and Safety  
Charlotte MacDonald, Manager of Recreation

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Warden MacIsaac called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm 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 amended: Item # 4, June 4, 2022 Special Election: Voting Options be moved the # 6 agenda item.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Poirier

**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Gillis

**MOTION CARRIED**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** *That the Regular Council minutes of May 5th, 2022 be approved as presented.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Chisholm

**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Gillis

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:** *That the Committee of the Whole minutes of May 19th, 2022 be approved as presented.*  
**MOVED BY:** Councillor Poirier  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Chisholm  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:** *That the Special Meeting minutes of May 19th, 2022 be approved as presented.*  
**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Gillis  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Chisholm  
**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **4. PRESENTATION: Marielle Bourgeois; L'Acabie**

La Cooperative de transport de Chéticamp also known as L'Acabie, is a community based, non-profit transportation cooperative established in 2010, which initiated operations in 2012. It received its Charitable Status in September of 2014. L'Acabie provides transportation to anyone in Northern Inverness County as well as surrounding areas. L'Acabie continues to serve seniors, persons with disabilities and special needs, and all those needing affordable, reliable transportation, however anyone can use the service. L'Acabie has two non-accessible 6 passenger vans, one non-accessible 5 passenger SUV and one accessible 4 passenger van.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- SPRING 2022 HEAVY GARBAGE

**MOTION** *That Spring 2022 Heavy Garbage Pick-up be held during the week of June 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>, with a budget of \$180,000.00. Tenders to be awarded to Evan Tompkins for the North and Central portion of the County, and Blackstone Construction for the South.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Chisholm

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Poirier

**MOTION CARRIED**

- BILINGUAL STOP/ARRÊT SIGN APPLICATION

**MOTION:** *That Council proceed with the application to the Office of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie for the installation of STOP/ARRÊT signs in the Municipality of the County of Inverness.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Poirier

**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Gillis

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **6. JUNE 4, 2022 SPECIAL ELECTION: VOTING OPTIONS**

Director of Finance and Returning Officer Tanya Tibbo outlined the voting methods for the District 2 Special Election to be held on June 4<sup>th</sup> 2022. Voting is via telephone and Internet. In addition, a computer has been set up at the Coady and Tompkins Library in Margaree Forks as an extra method of voting for District 2 residents.

## **7. 2023 GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET**

Director of Finance Tanya Tibbo presented the 2022/2023 General Operating Budget; Highlights include:

- The Municipality is pleased to announce that the Residential, Commercial, and Resource Tax Rates will remain the same.
- The average Residential Assessment is \$135,000.00
- The Residential Tax Effort for the Municipality is 2.1%. This means that 2.1% of the medium household income is required to pay the average tax bill. Any percentage under 4 is considered low risk.
- Total expenditures required for the Municipality of the County of Inverness to operate for the 2023 Fiscal year is \$20,499,500.00
- Total Revenue required for the Municipality of the County of Inverness to operate for the 2023 Fiscal year is \$19,736,200.00
- Total financing and transfers required for the Municipality of the County of Inverness to balance the 2023 General Operating Budget this Fiscal year is \$763,300.00. This includes \$943,000.00 of the surplus of the 2022 Fiscal Year.
- RCMP costs have increased over the previous year by 11.04 %, which is an additional \$302,165.00, bringing the total amount paid for policing to \$3,040,244.00.
- Thirty seven percent (37 %) of the total expenditures budgeted by the Municipality (\$7,510,200.00) are paid to five entities: Eastern Counties Regional Library, Strait Regional Centre for Education, RCMP, Property Valuation Services Corporation, Correctional Facilities and Roads.
- The 2023 General Operating Budget includes 104 staff, which includes contract, seasonal, part-time and full-time employees.
- \$1,077,150.00 in grants is included for organizations that provide services to residents of the Municipality.
- The Municipality will provide \$326,500.00 in property tax exemptions to not-for-profit and charitable organizations.
- With the ending of the COVID-19 pandemic, additional budget has been allotted for new recreation programs including Disc Golf, Atlantic Outdoor Forum, Race Network and Community Playbox Project.

<b>The following property tax rates are billed based on \$100 of assessed value:</b>	
Residential Property Tax Rate	\$1.05
Commercial Property Tax Rate	\$1.91
Resource Property Tax Rate	\$1.05
<b>The following tax rates are billed based on acreage:</b>	
Forest Property Tax Rate	\$0.25
<b>The following area rates are billed based on \$100 of assessed value:</b>	
NE Margaree Volunteer Fire Department	\$0.10
West Bay Road Volunteer Fire Department	\$0.15
Port Hastings Volunteer Fire Department	\$0.10
Port Hood Volunteer Fire Department (Residential)	\$0.10
Port Hood Volunteer Fire Department (Commercial)	\$0.06
Inverness Volunteer Fire Department	\$0.08
Judique Volunteer Fire Department	\$0.10
Whycomomagh Volunteer Fire Department	\$0.10
Lake Ainslie Volunteer Fire Department	\$0.10
Cheticamp Volunteer Fire Department (Residential)	\$0.10
Cheticamp Volunteer Fire Department (Commercial)	\$0.06
Valley Mills Volunteer Fire Department	\$0.10
Margaree Volunteer Fire Department (Residential)	\$0.10
Margaree Volunteer Fire Department (Commercial)	\$0.10
Blues Mills Volunteer Fire Department (Residential)	\$0.10
Blues Mills Volunteer Fire Department (Commercial)	\$0.05
Lemoine Volunteer Fire Department	\$0.10
Wastewater Services Area Rate (District 1)	\$0.367
Wastewater Services Area Rate (Districts 2-6)	\$0.356
<b>The following area rates are billed based on dwelling unit:</b>	
Mabou Volunteer Fire Department (1 dwelling unit)	\$100
Mabou Volunteer Fire Department (More than 1 dwelling unit)	\$200
Pleasant Bay Volunteer Fire Department per dwelling unit	\$125
Bay St. Lawrence Volunteer Fire Department (Meat Cove) per dwelling unit	\$60

**MOTION:** *That Council approve the 2023 Area Rates as presented.*  
**MOVED BY:** Councillor Poirier  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Chisholm  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:** *That Council approve the 2023 General Operating Budget as presented.*  
**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Gillis  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Chisholm  
Councillor Poirier, Warden MacIsaac voted in favour, Councillor MacLennan voted against.  
**MOTION CARRIED**

## **8. CORRESPONDENCE**

- **Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities – Organizational Changes**

The Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities is looking at a significant reorganization. Information was provided in the Council package regarding the purpose for this reorganization and next steps.

## **9. NEXT MEETING DATE**

June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 9:30 am: Committee of the Whole

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** *That Council adjourn at 3:53 p.m.*  
**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Gillis  
**MOTION CARRIED**