

**Municipality of the County of Inverness
Committee of the Whole Meeting
Thursday, January 26th, 2023
3:00 pm
Council Chambers**

MINUTES

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

Staff: Keith MacDonald, CAO
 Tanya Tibbo, Director of Finance
 Maura Beaton, Special Projects Facilitator
 Chestley Carr, Director of Public Works
 Jason Calder, Acting Manager of Recreation
 Erin Gillis, Manager of Operations and Occupational Health and Safety
 Debbie Nicholson, Administrative Assistant to Council/ CAO
 Joe Carew, Communications and Community Engagement Specialist

1. CALL TO ORDER

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 presented.*
MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier
SECONDED BY: Councillor MacLennan
MOTION CARRIED

3. STAFF REPORTS

(a) Chestley Carr, Director of Public Works

Winter maintenance is ongoing at Municipal infrastructure throughout the county including sidewalk clearing, and the snow removal at Municipal roads, facilities and hydrants. Sewer repairs

were carried out in Inverness & Cheticamp, and manholes were flushed and cleaned out. The interior and exterior of the Strathlorne building continues to be decluttered and cleaned to provide safe, more efficient workspace. Nova Scotia Power has identified areas for tree removal at the Inverness water treatment plant & below the municipal building in Port Hood. The Inverness water treatment plant filter valve replacement project is near completion. Assistance was provided to other Municipal Departments through forklift delivery to Dartmouth, water and wastewater sample delivery to Sydney, and water utility service connects and repairs. A major sewer pipe replacement was required at the Port Hood Administration building due to deteriorating condition. A new, more efficient sidewalk clearing machine will arrive at the Municipality soon.

Lift station repairs have been completed at lift station # 3 in Port Hood, with eventual replacement for station # 3, as well as station # 1 in the future. Repairs to the check valves at the WTP in Whycomomagh have been completed, and 2 additional check valves remain to be replaced on the production wells. The Inverness water treatment plant filter valve replacement project is nearing completion. Filter inspections at the Judique water treatment plant are scheduled for later this month.

Sampling to ensure the Municipality meets its approvals to operate have been completed. A new water withdrawal limit for Mabou of 576,000 liters per day was received. An application to increase the withdrawal limit for Whycomomagh has been sent to the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change (NSECC). The final quarter reporting for 2022 has been submitted to NSECC.

Multiple projects are in various stages of completion including water treatment plant valve replacements, land clearing, speed radar sign placement and Cheticamp Lift Station Control Panel SCADA connection.

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

Changes to Construction and Demolition (C&D) regulations will come into effect in June 2023 with a graduated enforcement plan beginning with education and ending with a complete removal of treated timbers from the landfill. Communications from our site as well as the Nova Scotia Solid Waste Mangers committee have been submitted to NSECC to review questions and concerns with updated C&D regulations.

The Kenloch Waste Management Facility is now an approved and registered as a used /waste paint drop off location. The Kenloch staff lunch room is now onsite.

Staffing levels and mechanical failures continue to be issues at the Strathlorne Recycling Facility. Current practices are under review to find possible savings of costs and time.

The by-law officer is developing programs and best practices through training opportunities, a ride along in CBRM and ongoing networking with colleagues in similar roles.

Solid waste education is ongoing with monthly meetings, enforcement, and provincial reporting. Payments from Divert Nova Scotia are being calculated for fiscal year end and next year's budgeting.

Multiple projects are at various stages of completion including the C&D cell design, historical waste clean up, storage building design/construction and community bin placement process. Monthly and /or weekly meetings continue with department staff and external partners.

(c) Tanya Tibbo, Department of Finance

Over the past month the finance department continued to process multiple payments for property tax and water utility billing, as well as many other general receipts. Additional activities in finance include water meter installs, inspections and disconnections, accounts payable processes, land issues, title changes, assessment changes, the water rate study review and the Capital Budget and Audit Committees activities. Staff are reviewing fire area rates to ensure that the correct rates are being levied. The 2023 Fiscal Year General Operating Financial Summary as of January 20th, 2023 was presented. Property Tax Arrears by District as of January 20th, 2023 was provided. The Municipal Water Utility rate study is ongoing, numerous land issues were addressed, and payroll and personnel data were updated as required. Multiple Requests for Proposals are under evaluation or were recently awarded. Many meetings both internal, and with external partners continue.

(d) Jason Calder, Recreation

The Recreation Master Plan First Draft has been reviewed and edits were submitted to REC Consulting. Funding approvals were received for the purchase of Sensory Loan Equipment and to support the Municipal Senior Safety Program. The Annual Municipal staff appreciation event was held on December 15, 2022. The first session of the Virtual Instructor Pilot (VIP) has wrapped up. Multiple projects are at various stages including VIP, school-based fall programming, physical activity recreation master plan, Book Kings management, Seniors safety, Age Well academy, basketball skills, winter guided hike promotion, Walk NS safe signage, and the Wellness committee. Multiple committee meetings, and planning sessions with external partners were held over the past month.

(e) Melanie Beaton, Special Projects

A large amount of work continues to be advanced by the Special Projects Team. Some of the larger scale ongoing projects include the Sanitary Sewer & Water Main Replacement Project (Strathlorne/Inverness), service installations at Silverwod Lane, Inverness, mapping of existing water/sewer assets and the Port Hastings Rotary Municipal Service re-alignment and replacement. Multiple community projects are at various stages including the Port Hood Park Stage and enhancement, Mi-Carême Brand and signage, Judique Brand and Streetscape, the Gypsum Mine Trail, Margaree signage, Whycocomagh Façade, Mabou Marina enhancements, Inverness County Public Transportation Review, Clean Energy Financing, Municipal Boundary Review, Food Security, Port Hood Development Plan, Trails Review, Electric Vehicle Charging Stations and various asset mapping exercises. Municipal staff are developing a plan to review sewer by-laws to ensure enforceability. Meetings continue with consultants, stakeholders and external partners.

4. PRESENTATION: Kiersty Malay and Gretchen Noyes-Hull, Gulf Aquarium and Marine Station Cooperative (*postponed to a later date due to a power interruption*)

5. COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION

Celtic Music Interpretive Centre – Building Improvements

The request of Council is \$2,324.50

Recommendation to fund this request in full with funds coming from District 6's CDC budget.

6. PROVINCIAL COMFORT CENTRE GENERATOR APPLICATIONS

The Province of Nova Scotia created the Community Generator Program to provide assistance to community centres for the purchase and installation of generators, so when the need arises, they are able to serve as a gathering space for community members. 16 Municipal organizations applied to this project, with the assistance of Special Projects staff, and all applications were approved. Municipal staff are meeting with Community Comfort Centre Organizations to confirm the support needed through mobilization, implementation and commissioning. The program deadline for applications has been extended into February and Municipal staff are helping to support additional organizations wishing to apply.

7. MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY REVIEW

Two additional public consultation sessions were hosted recently with the Municipal consultants, Watson and Associates. In addition, an online survey is available to the public until the end of the month. A final report based on the findings will be made available to Council for consideration in February. A final recommendation will be made to Council during the March regular meeting.

8. LIBRARY SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN

The Strategy for Library Service for the Municipality of the County of Inverness is underway. An online survey has recently closed, with over 200 respondents. The information gathered from the surveys will be made available in a report to Council in February. This report along with potential locations for future library sites will form part of a recommendation to Council from consultants in the month of March.

9. HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS SUPPORT

Through the Office of Healthcare Professionals: Recruitment Community Fund, Nova Scotia communities will be provided with the opportunity to access the tools they need to enhance attraction and retention efforts. This funding will provide communities with the opportunity to create their own strategies to attract and retain healthcare professionals and engage their citizens to foster welcoming environments.

The Municipality of the County of Inverness submitted a proposal that includes two interconnected and overlapping phases:

- Working with the Cape Breton Partnership, Nova Scotia Health, and the Municipal Housing Corporation to develop a healthcare attraction and retention welcome package and

prospectus. Additional partnership, advice, and mentorship will be provided from the Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment.

- Working with post-secondary institutions and local high schools to schedule a series of career fairs at Inverness County schools to encourage enrollment into health careers and provide information to prospective health majors in Nova Scotia Colleges and Universities.

10. CORRESPONDENCE: CODE OF CONDUCT CONSULTATION MATERIAL

A report was received from Mayor Mood, Code of Conduct Working Group Chair regarding the Code of Conduct Consultations.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE

February 2nd 2023 3:00 pm, Regular Council

12. IN CAMERA

The purpose for this “In Camera” session was to discuss matters relating to:

- Public security.

MOTION: *That Council go “In Camera” at 3:37 pm*
MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Gillis
SECONDED BY: Councillor Chisholm
MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: *That Council go out of “In Camera” at 3:51 pm*
MOVED BY: Councillor Chisholm
SECONDED BY: Deputy Warden Gillis
MOTION CARRIED

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *That Council adjourn at 3:51 pm*
MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier
MOTION CARRIED