

**Municipality of the County of Inverness
Committee of the Whole Meeting
Thursday, February 16th, 2023
10:00 am
Council Chambers**

MINUTES

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

Staff: Keith MacDonald, CAO
Tanya Tibbo, Director of Finance
Maura Beaton, Special Projects Facilitator
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 (via Zoom)
Melanie Beaton, Special Projects Facilitator (via Zoom)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Warden MacIsaac called the meeting to order at 10:00 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 MacLennan

MOTION CARRIED

3. STAFF REPORTS

(a) Chestley Carr, Director of Public Works

The new sidewalk snow clearing machine will soon arrive in Strathlorne. This will reduce the sidewalk clearing costs and increase efficiency. The filter valve replacement project at the

Inverness water treatment plant has been completed allowing for backwashing to occur remotely when demand is at its lowest. Representatives from NS Power will present to the Municipality regarding their tree trimming project along Route 19 between Port Hastings and Port Hood.

A crack in the foundation was discovered at the Recreation Office in Port Hood. A local contractor was hired to repair the concrete crack, and staff are completing the inside repairs. The Port Hood Municipal building sustained damage from cracked water pipes in early February. The leaks were repaired soon after, and further restoration will continue over the next few weeks. Municipal streetlight maintenance is ongoing in the communities of Mabou, Port Hood, Inverness and Cheticamp. Staff recently participated in training courses for Skid Steer Operator, Trenching and Excavation, Transportation of Dangerous Good and WHMIS.

Inspections were completed at the lift stations in Cheticamp and Port Hood. The required parts are now being ordered. The underground oil storage tank at the Judique water treatment plant was removed without issue. Renovations are taking place at the Inverness Booster Station to allow for a maintenance work and storage area.

Sampling to ensure the Municipality meets its approvals to operate have been completed. A new water withdrawal limit for Whycomagh was received. The old limit was 654,624 litres/day. It has now increased to 1,339,200 litres/day.

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 connection. Four new filters have been purchased for the Inverness Water Treatment Plant. This will help increase of production rate during the summer months and accommodate any future expansion of the well field.

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

Budget planning and prioritization for the 2023–2024 fiscal year are ongoing. Annual report data review prior to submission at the end of the month is underway. Repairs and maintenance are in progress at the Kenloch Waste Management facility and the Strathlorne Recycling facility. The by-law officer is completing training that will assist with registration as a special constable. Municipal staff are supporting the We'koqma'q waste management strategy through support with education and resources. The Occupational Health and Safety review is underway with updated programs to be launched throughout the year.

Multiple projects are at various stages of completion including the C&D cell development, storage building design/construction and community bin placement process. The Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee continues to meet monthly. Meetings are held with regional and provincial waste educators to discuss solid waste management initiatives.

(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. The new finance clerk has begun working with the

Municipality. Blanket insurance for the volunteer fire departments is being explored. Staff are reviewing fire area rates to ensure that the correct rates are being levied. The Municipal Water Utility rate study is ongoing with a date of May 24th for the Water Rate Hearing. 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

January marked the start of the Winter Recreation Session with Adult and Youth Recreation Programs starting in Cheticamp, Margaree, Inverness, Mabou, Whycomomagh and Port Hood. The Seniors Safety Coordinator has begun to make connections with Senior Service organizations to facilitate introductions and compile a list of services offered and to uncover gaps. An engagement session was held in Whycomomagh with members from County Trail groups. The winter equipment loan rental program has begun. An application for summer students has been submitted and planning continues for the Spring Recreation session. The Physical Activity Recreation Master Plan is ongoing. Basketball skill sessions were held at the Whycomomagh Education Centre and Bayview Education Centre. A Winter guided hike promotion was held. Monthly meetings were held with the Accessibility committee and the wellness committees. Weekly meetings are held with Special Projects staff regarding the progress of the Municipal Multi Court Facility.

(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), Sanitary Sewer and Watermain Replacement Detailed Design, Central Avenue Inverness, Mapping of Existing Municipal Water/Sewer Assets, Port Hastings Rotary Municipal Service Re-alignment and Replacement, Whycomomagh Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection System and Cheticamp Wastewater Treatment Plant System Assessment Report, Whycomomagh and Chéticamp Collection System Flow Monitoring, Inverness and Judique Wastewater Treatment Plant & Outfall. 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, Whycomomagh 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, Meat Cove and Pleasant Bay Branding and Signage, Healthcare Attraction and Retention and various asset mapping exercises. Municipal staff are developing a plan to review sewer by-laws to ensure enforceability. Meetings continue with consultants, stakeholders, external partners, and community groups.

4. PRESENTATION: Watson and Associates Economists Ltd. – Municipal Boundary Review: Dr. Robert Williams and Josh Valenti

MOTION: *That Council accept the following options regarding Municipal Electoral*

Boundary Design:

- *The number of electoral districts remain at 6.*
- *The present district map is modified as follows: the boundary between Districts 6 and 4 is realigned south of Malagawatch (on the Bras d'or Lake) so that all of Big Harbour Island and Militia Point and Malagawatch would be included in District 4. The net effect of this change would be to keep the Marble Mountain community aligned with Port Hastings and Judique and to remove the present artificial division of Big Harbour Island into two districts. About 160 voters would move from the present District 6 to District 4, meaning that District 6 is no longer above the 10% range of variation and only two of the six districts (not three) are in that group. There is no other impact on the district boundary configuration.*

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Gillis

SECONDED BY: Councillor Chisholm

MOTION CARRIED

5. PRESENTATION: Mill Road Social Enterprises - Food Security Program; Cindy O'Neill and Caroline Cameron

For forty-one years, Mill Road Social Enterprises (MRSE) has provided vocational, personal, and social skills training for adults who have diverse abilities. MRSE operates a bakery, a gently-used clothing store and undertakes a variety of projects, including a community garden. They piloted a 'Mobile Meals' program in 2022, to fill the gap for the currently inactive Meals on Wheels program. The pilot utilized a \$50,000 budget, \$10,000 of which was contributed by the Municipality. Approximately 30 people were served, providing an average of 20 meals per week for 6 months of the year, breaking during the busy summer months. This pilot allowed MRSE to invest in some useful equipment, and develop a strong base from which to run the program into the future.

6. COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS

i. Gulf Aquarium and Marine Station Cooperative – GAMS Outreach Initiatives

The request of Council is \$2,740.00

Recommendation to fund this request in full with funds coming from District 2's CDC budget.

ii. Port Hood Area Development Society – Central Park Audio Equipment

The request of Council is \$ 1537.43

Recommendation to fund this request in full with funds coming from District 5's CDC budget.

iii. Mabou Athletic Centre – Building/Property Improvements

The request of Council is \$ 11,393.75

Recommendation to fund this request in full with funds coming from District 5's CDC budget.

iv. Dr. Bernie MacLean Cultural and Recreation Centre – Cable 3 Building Upgrades

The request of Council is \$2500.00

Recommendation to fund this request in full with funds coming from District 3’s CDC budget.

v. Judique and area Development Association – Accessible Playground and Washroom

The request of Council is \$15,000.00

Recommendation to fund this request in full with funds coming from District 6’s CDC budget (\$5,000.00) and the Recreation Facility Grant (\$10,000.00).

7. NEXT MEETING DATE

March 9th 2023 3:00 pm, Regular Council

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *That Council adjourn at 11:21 am*

MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier

MOTION CARRIED