

Municipality of the County of Inverness  
Regular Council Meeting  
Thursday, February 2nd, 2023  
Council Chambers  
3:00 pm

MINUTES

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

Staff: Keith MacDonald, CAO  
Tanya Tibbo, CFO  
Roy MacLean, Land Management and Acquisition  
Debbie Nicholson, Administrative Assistant to Council/CAO  
Chestley Carr, Director of Public Works  
Erin Gillis, Manager of Operations and Occupational Health and Safety  
Maura Beaton, Special Projects Facilitator  
Rebecca Dunphy, Special Projects Coordinator

**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 presented.*  
**MOVED BY:** Councillor Poirier  
**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Gillis  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** *That the Regular Meeting minutes of January 12th, 2023 be approved presented.*  
**MOVED BY:** Councillor MacLennan  
**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Gillis  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:** *That the Special Meeting minutes of January 26th, 2023 be approved as presented.*  
**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Gillis  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor MacLennan  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:** *That the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of January 26th, 2023 be approved as presented.*  
**MOVED BY:** Councillor Poirier  
**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Gillis  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**4. PRESENTATION: PROPERTY VALUATION SERVICES CORPORATION; Paul Beazley and Adam Hanna**

Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) was created under the Property Valuation Service Corporation Act and is responsible for assessing all property in Nova Scotia as per the Nova Scotia Assessment Act. The organization is Municipally funded, governed by a Board of Directors and employs approximately 130 staff. They deliver an assessment role to all 49 municipalities each year by December 31<sup>st</sup> and issue 630,000 assessment notices to Nova Scotia property owners each January. For the 2023 assessment year, the Municipality of the County of Inverness has \$1.898 Billion worth of assessed value; 87% is residential and 13 % is commercial. Provincial legislation places a “cap” on eligible property which limits taxable value increases. The cap rate is based on the Nova Scotia Consumer Price Index (CPI), set by Statistics Canada. Nova Scotia residents are entitled to appeal their annual assessment by February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 should they disagree with their valuation.

**5. PRESENTATION: GULF AQUARIUM AND MARINE STATION COOPERATIVE; Kiersty Malay and Gretchen Noyes-Hull**

The Gulf Aquarium and Marine Station Cooperative (GAMS) was incorporated in 2007 to create a Marine Centre for the Western Coast of Cape Breton. GAMS operates both a marine research station lab and a seasonal interpretive facility in Grand Étang Harbour. The Marine Interpretive Centre is open to the public seasonally, staffed by summer students and volunteers, and supported by visitor donations. Last summer GAMS welcomed 2000 visitors to the Marine Centre. The facility offers summer camps that offer outdoor immersive experiences in the marine environment for ages 4-15. GAMS’ total project costs for Summer Outreach and Summer Camp programs is \$5480. Part of the cost is for the purchase of a new touch tank. The current request for funding of the Municipality is \$2740.

**6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- **Municipal Water Rate Study**

**MOTION:** *That the Municipality of the County of Inverness apply to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board for changes in its rates for water and water service, fire protection to the Municipality and changes its rules and regulations for customers served by the Inverness County Water Utility, as set out in the water rate study prepared by G.A. Isenor Consulting Limited in association with Blaine S. Rooney Consulting Ltd.*

**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Gillis

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Phillips

**MOTION CARRIED**

- **Celtic Music Interpretive Centre**

**MOTION:** *That the Municipality fund this \$2324.50 request in full with funds coming from District 6's CDC budget.*

**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Gillis

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Phillips

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received from the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities regarding the Code of Conduct Working Group

## **8. NEXT MEETING DATE**

February 16th, 2023 9:30 am: Committee of the Whole

## **9. IN CAMERA**

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

- Security
- Land

**MOTION:** *That Council go "In Camera" at 4:01 pm*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Poirier

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Phillips

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:** *That Council go out of "In Camera" at 4:33 pm*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor MacLennan

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Poirier

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** *That Council adjourn at 4:33 pm*  
**MOVED BY:** Councillor Phillips  
**MOTION CARRIED**