

Municipality of the County of Inverness
Committee of the Whole Meeting
Thursday, April 20th, 2023
9:30 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
Chestley Carr, Director of Public Works
Maura Beaton, Special Projects Facilitator
Erin Gillis, Manager of Operations and Occupational Health and Safety
Debbie Nicholson, Administrative Assistant to Council/ CAO
Jason Calder, Acting Manager of Recreation
Jenna Beaton, Chief of Staff

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 Chisholm

SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier

MOTION CARRIED

3. STAFF REPORTS

(a) Chestley Carr, Director of Public Works

Repairs were recently completed to remedy leaks occurring at the Recreation and Community Wellness Building in Port Hood. No further leaks were detected at this location. Repairs to the Port Hood Administration building will be occurring once direction from the insurance provider is

received. Hilltop Electrical is conducting necessary repairs and replacement of street light components in Mabou, Inverness & Cheticamp. Public Works staff will participate in Confined Space Rescue training on May 2nd & 3rd at the Strathlorne facility. The Public Works Coordinator participated in Accident and Investigation Training on March 7th 2023. Speed radar signs have been installed in Margaree Forks and in East Margaree. Sewer camera work and cleaning are required at the Port Hastings Rotary location before additional work can move forward. Staff assisted other departments with water and wastewater sample delivery to Sydney, water utility connects and disconnects, and traffic control. The groundwork has begun for the installation of two electric vehicle charging stations at the Port Hood Municipal building.

Staff are trying to find solutions to the issue of flushable wipes in the system at the Whycomomagh wastewater treatment facility as it is affecting the aeration system. The old aeration system at the Judique wastewater treatment plant needed repairs; a new drive chain was installed, and the gearbox received an oil change. The new water line at the Judique water treatment plant was experiencing some pressure increases. Maintenance to the system will alleviate this issue.

Sampling to ensure the Municipality meets its approvals to operate have been completed. The annual water reports and some of the wastewater reports were completed/submitted to the Nova Scotia Department of the Environment and Climate Change (NSECC).

Multiple projects are in various stages of completion including Cheticamp Lift Station Control Panel maintenance, and filter additions at the Inverness Water Treatment Plant. Quotes received for the Strathlorne land clearing project are being reviewed.

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

Planning is underway for a Spring Heavy Garbage collection; the request for proposals has been developed. Work continues on program development to comply with changing Construction and Demolition regulations. Historic chemicals have been removed, along with site clearing in Strathlorne. The Starlink internet system is now set up and functioning at the Kenloch Waste Management Facility. Sheds for the Paint program have arrived and will soon be opened to the public. Staff are sourcing new buyers for recycled materials. The Municipal By-Law officer is attending a certification program with the Atlantic By-Law Officer Association. Application for registration as a Special Constable will follow.

Solid Waste Education staff visited several ICI (industrial, commercial, institutional) sites to review waste management practices and help develop ways the Municipality can be of assistance. The Occupational Health and Safety student is on an eight week internship with the Municipality. The focus is on standardized operating procedures, risk assessments, PPE selection, and industrial hygiene.

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) Jason Calder, Recreation

The planning phase of the Age Well Academy is well underway. This spring the municipality received funding from New Horizons to host the Age Well Academy throughout the county. These sessions will be a mix of Information sessions including Frauds and Scams from the RCMP, Caregivers Nova Scotia, Continuing Care as well as municipal staff offering information of recycling, materials management and fall prevention. Each session will be hosted in a local community hub familiar to the senior population and will include a catered lunch.

Rentals have started to slow with the reduction of available snow. More funding approvals have been received which will allow the department to expand the loan equipment offerings this spring.

Multiple projects are underway including the Physical Activity Recreation Master Plan, Bookings Management, Seniors Safety Program Network, Age Well Academy and Winter Guided Hike Promotion. The Wellness and Accessibility Committees continue to meet regularly.

Multiple in person and remote meetings were held with various groups and partners including the Municipal Operations team, Nova Scotia Health, Judique Seniors, Strait Richmond Health Board, Caregivers Nova Scotia, Creignish Playground, The Ecology Action Centre, and with other Accessibility coordinators throughout the province.

(d) 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, Port Hood Lift Station # 1, 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 advancing the Housing Survey findings. Municipal staff are in the process of creating a water and wastewater asset mapping exercise for the Mabou and Whycomomagh distribution and collection systems. Meetings continue with consultants, stakeholders, external partners, and community groups.

4. PRESENTATION: CABOT TRAIL WRITER'S FESTIVAL; Rebecca Silver Slater

The Cabot Trail Writers Festival is an annual autumn celebration of writing, reading, and the literate arts, as well as other events featuring writing or learning opportunities presented throughout the year. The Cabot Trail Writers Festival is a unique literary experience, with music

and laughter between readings, workshops, and panel discussions, allowing readers and writers to enjoy one another's company in various Cape Breton locations. The dates for the 2023 Festival are September 22, 23 and 24 with a series of school workshops scheduled for September 25 – 26.

5. RECOMMENDATION: ENGAGING WITH ABUTTING MUNICIPALITIES POLICY

MOTION: *That the following policy be adopted by the Municipality of the County of Inverness:*

ARTICLE 1: Title 1 (1) This Policy shall be known as the Engagement with Abutting Municipalities Policy.

ARTICLE 2: Purpose 2 (1) The purpose is to establish a policy to provide opportunity for engagement with abutting municipalities to learn more about an issue and the potential impact a change in planning policy may have. The Municipality of the County of Inverness's neighbours are the Town of Port Hawkesbury, the Municipality of the County of Victoria, and the Municipality of the County of Richmond. The aim of early engagement is to reduce land-use conflict and increase cooperative opportunities. Council supports municipal engagement when adopting and amending municipal planning strategies.

ARTICLE 3: Principles of the Policy 3 (1) As required by section 204A of the MGA, in the case where the adoption or amendment of a Municipal Planning Strategy is proposed, Council shall seek input from the following abutting municipalities:

- a) Town of Port Hawkesbury*
- b) Municipality of the County of Victoria*
- c) Municipality of the County of Richmond.*

ARTICLE 4: Policy 4 (1) Council shall consult and engage with the Town of Port Hawkesbury, the Municipality of the County of Victoria, and the Municipality of the County of Richmond when:

- a) Adopting or replacing a Municipal Planning Strategy; and*
- b) Considering amendments to a Municipal Planning Strategy, which would affect lands that share a common boundary with the Town of Port Hawkesbury, the Municipality of the County of Victoria, and the Municipality of the County of Richmond.*

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Gillis

SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips

MOTION CARRIED

6. WIND TURBINE BYLAW

Municipal staff reached out to the Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC) on the status of amendments to the current Wind Turbine By-Law. A staff report is being prepared by EDPC staff and will be presented at an upcoming Planning and Advisory Committee meeting.

7. TAX WRITE OFF: AAN 01709399

Recommendation to write off the residential rate of taxes and interest on this account 01709399. The account will be adjusted by \$770.66 to reflect only the value of the house.

8. COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS

- a) Inverness Victoria Federation of Agriculture - Precision Agricultural Equipment Expansion
The Request of Council is \$8,000.00

Recommendation to fund this request for \$4,000.00 with funds coming from the Regional Community Development Grants Budget.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) March 2023 Building Permit Statistics – March 2023 Building permit statistics were included in the Council package from the Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC).

Council requested extending an invitation to EDPC staff to attend a future meeting of Council to address current concerns, namely the process in addressing unsightly premises applications.

- b) The Department of Public Works – Correspondence was received outlining the following road that has been approved for this program for the 2023-2024 fiscal year: Chemin Poirier.

Recommendation to Council to accept the following approved project for the 2023-2024 J Class Streets Program:

Road Name	Description	KMs	Total Cost Estimate	Total Cost Estimate With (HST)
Chemin Poirier	From Cabot Trail (36 meters south of Robin’s) to end of listing, repaving	0.16	\$70,000.00	\$35,000.00

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

May 4th, 2023; 3:00 pm; Regular Council

11. IN CAMERA

MOTION: *That Council move to “In Camera” at 10:49 am to discuss matters related to personnel, and contract negotiations.*

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Gillis

SECONDED BY: Councillor MacLennan

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: *That Council move out of "In Camera" at 11:47am*
MOVED BY: Councillor Phillips
SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier
MOTION CARRIED

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *That Council adjourn at 11:47 am*
MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Gillis
MOTION CARRIED