

Municipality of the County of Inverness
Committee of the Whole Meeting
Thursday, May 18th, 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 (via telephone)

Staff: Keith MacDonald, CAO
 Chestley Carr, Director of Public Works
 Brian Luciano, Director of Finance
 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
 Lauren MacDonnell, Engineer in Training
 Roy MacLean, Land Acquisition
 Rebecca Dunphy, Special Projects Coordinator
 Melanie Meagher-Beaton, Special Projects Facilitator (via Zoom)

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 MacLennan
SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier
MOTION CARRIED

3. STAFF REPORTS

(a) Chestley Carr, Director of Public Works

In preparation for a paving project expected to be awarded in the Spring of 2023, infrastructure staff have been checking the manholes and sewer lines along Route 19 in Mabou. One water valve needs to be realigned. The Municipality will continue to collaborate with provincial Department of Public Works staff until the completion of the paving project. Municipal lighting bulbs and fixtures in Mabou and Port Hood are replaced as required. Staff participated in Confined Space Rescue training on May 2nd & 3rd at the Strathlorne facility. Speed radar signs in Margaree Forks and East Margaree continue to track rates of speed. The CCTV work and flushing of the municipal sewer mains at the Port Hastings rotary was completed on April 21st, 2023, no significant issues were identified by staff. The former Whycomomagh water treatment plant digester is currently being used as a holding tank for sludge/waste greatly reducing the need to truck off-site. Staff assisted other departments with water and wastewater sample delivery to Sydney, water utility connects and disconnects, and traffic control.

Preliminary work has begun to install the new booster skid in Port Hastings; the approach is to complete as much work as possible before replacing the unit minimizing the amount of down time. Lynk Electric have visited the site as well to scope their work. Inspection on the aeration system at the Inverness wastewater treatment plant was started, this is part of preventative maintenance conducted each year to identify any deficiencies in equipment that may reduce the operational efficiency.

Sampling to ensure the Municipality meets its approvals to operate have been completed with no exceedances to report. All operations manuals for the water and wastewater facilities have been updated.

Multiple projects are in various stages of completion including Chéticamp 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

The Spring 2023 heavy garbage tender has been awarded to two local contractors. Collections will be during the week of May 29th with pickup occurring on the regular garbage pick up day. Staff have been coordinating clean up events and has been working with community leaders to ensure each group has appropriate collection materials and transportation of waste to Kenloch. Staff are preparing for seasonal increases in waste volumes at the Kenloch Waste Management Facility and the Strathlorne Recycling Facility. The By-Law officer is attending the Atlantic By-Law Officers Association conference. This will be the first conference for ABOA since COVID. Regional and provincial meetings for solid waste education continue. Three community clean ups have removed 2410 kg of waste from our communities. Four more are clean ups are scheduled. The Occupational Health and Safety student's eight week internship has finished, with a focus on risk assessments and chemical control. Department staff participated in the Senior Age Well Initiative with the Department of Recreation on May 17th in Chéticamp.

Multiple projects are at various stages of completion including the C&D cell development, storage building 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

Multiple initiatives are underway in Recreation including the Age Well Academy, Nova Scotia Walk Day, Senior Council membership, interviewing for summer student positions, Canada Day Activities planning, Port Hood and Inverness Ball Hockey and the development of a Seniors Safety Program Network with County Residents and Seniors Clubs. The Wellness and Accessibility Committees continue to meet regularly.

The Municipality has received sensory loan items. Currently there are 4 sensory boxes created and ready to loan out. Staff are developing a communication for our website and Facebook to increase awareness. Boxes include puzzles, wooden fidgets, aqua paints, and memory cards, all available to rent free of charge.

Multiple in person and remote meetings were held with various groups and partners including the Municipal Arenas for ball hockey, Inverness Sports Court Facility, Positive Aging, Community Links, the PAPE conference in Dartmouth, as well as internal staff meetings to discuss communications and long term planning.

(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 Chéticamp 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, the Inverness Multi Court Outdoor Recreation Facility, the Gypsum Mine Trail, Margaree signage, Whycomomagh Façade, Mabou Marina enhancements, Inverness County Public Transportation Review, Clean Energy Financing, Water Conservation, Food Security, Port Hood Development Plan, Trails Review, Electric Vehicle Charging Stations, Meat Cove and Pleasant Bay Branding and Signage, Healthcare Attraction and Retention, Destination 252, 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: Airbnb REGULATION; Chisholm MacKinnon

Chisholm MacKinnon is a resident of Mann Avenue, Inverness and has been retired for the last 10 years. He is concerned that the sense of community is being lost in the area he lives in due to the large number of Airbnb, or short term rentals by homeowners. He describes the impact of Airbnb rentals as three fold:

- I. Close proximity; cars and people coming and going
- II. Impact on housing stock; especially for young families; becoming a “summer town”

III. Impact on rental housing.

Some Municipalities in Nova Scotia, and across Canada are legislating restrictions on Airbnb rentals. Mr. MacKinnon is asking Municipal Council to consider amending the Inverness Land Use By-Law regarding policies and regulations for short term rentals in residential areas, or only allowing short term rentals in a primary residence.

Direction to staff to collect the numbers of Airbnb rentals in the County, and to look at what other Municipalities are doing regarding legislating short term rental properties.

5. PRESENTATION: AGE WELL ACADEMY; Jason Calder

The Age Well Academy is an initiative to bring seniors together to learn about topics that are of interest to them, to socialize and to enjoy a meal together. Thirteen sessions are scheduled across the Municipality, with at least two in each district from mid-May until November. Speakers and topics include: Continuing Care Nova Scotia, Caregivers Nova Scotia, RCMP, Alzheimer's Society of Nova Scotia, Sort-it-out Waste Services, Water Operations, Recreation and Community Wellness initiatives, and Food Insecurity and Social Isolation.

6. NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS; J CLASS ROADS COST SHARE AGREEMENT

Recommendation for the Municipality of the County of Inverness to participate in the three year cost share agreement for subdivision streets – Cost Share Agreement No. 2023-013.

7. SPRING 2023 HEAVY GARBAGE

Two local companies have been contracted to do the Spring 2023 Heavy Garbage Pickup: Blackstone Construction and Tompkins Trucking. Pickups will be done during the week of May 29th and will coincide with the regular garbage pick up day.

8. COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS

a) Glendale Community Cooperative – Community Outdoor Space

The Request of Council is \$5,445.96

Recommendation to fund this request in full with funds coming from District 6 Community Development Grant Funds.

b) Port Hood and District Recreation Commission – Fitness Centre Equipment

The Request of Council is \$ 12,501.00

Recommendation to fund this request in full with funds coming from the following:

\$6,250.50 from District 5 Funds

\$6,250.50 from the Recreation Facility Fund

c) L'Acabie Grocery Delivery – Grocery Delivery from LeMoyne Co-op
The Request of Council is \$5,000.00
Recommendation to fund this request in full with funds coming from District 2 CDC funds.

d) Conseil Economique de Chéticamp – Chéticamp Signs
The Request of Council is \$3,507.50
Recommendation to fund this request in full with funds coming from District 1 CDC funds.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Eastern District Planning Commission – Building Statistics for April 2023 were included in the Council package.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

June 8th, 2023; 11:00 am; Regular Council

11. IN CAMERA

MOTION: *That Council move to “In Camera” at 10:58 am to discuss matters related to land and personnel.*

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Gillis

SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: *That Council move out of “In Camera” at 11:44am*

MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier

SECONDED BY: Deputy Warden Gillis

MOTION CARRIED

Direction to staff to reach out to our partnering Municipalities and CAOs in Strait Area Transit to set up a meeting in September 2023 to get an update on operations.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *That Council adjourn at 11:45 am*

MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier

MOTION CARRIED