

Municipality of the County of Inverness
Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, July 6th, 2023
Council Chambers
3:00 pm

MINUTES

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

Staff: Keith MacDonald, CAO
Debbie Nicholson, Administrative Assistant to Council/CAO
Erin Gillis, Manager of Operations and Occupational Health and Safety
Jenna Beaton, Chief of Staff
Melanie Beaton, Special Projects Facilitator

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 with the following recommendations from today's PAC meeting: 1. That the Planning Advisory Committee recommends to Municipal Council to approve the proposed amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law Concerning the Regulation of Wind Turbine Development to increase setback distances for Utility Scale Wind Turbines to 1 km and add a setback table that considers the number of wind turbines in a wind turbine farm with a generating capacity of 2 megawatts or more and insert accompanying definitions; and that Council give First Reading and schedule a Public Hearing. 2. That Council direct staff to use the Cumberland County Wind Turbine By-Law model for future changes (e.g. decommissioning of turbines, property line setbacks, public consultations, health concerns).*

MOVED BY: Councillor MacLennan

SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier

MOTION CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: *That the Regular Council meeting minutes of June 8th 2023 be approved as presented.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier

SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: *That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of June 22nd 2023 be approved as presented.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Chisholm

SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips

MOTION CARRIED

4. PRESENTATION: STRAIT SUPERPORT (Frank MacInnis and Tim Gilfoy)

The Strait of Canso Superport Corporation Limited (SCSCL) was incorporated in 1997 under the Companies Act of Nova Scotia for the purpose of owning and operating the Marine Terminals at P011 Hawkesbury and Mulgrave. The Government of Canada (Transport Canada) under the divestiture program transferred the Marine Facilities at P011 Hawkesbury and Mulgrave to SCSCL in February 2000. The objectives of the SCSCL are: 1. To plan, develop and upgrade port infrastructure, facilities, equipment and technologies 2. To market, promote and identify opportunities for cargo and traffic for the Strait of Canso 3. To inform, communicate and lobby on behalf of stakeholders on issues affecting harbour management and 4. To own and operate marine terminals, facilities, vessels, equipment, land and buildings. A vacancy currently exists on the Strait Superport Board of Directors, as the term of Mr. MacInnis is nearing completion. The Municipality is currently advertising to fill this vacant position.

5. WATER STREET PORT HOOD

The Port Hood & Area Development Society (PHADS) brought to the attention of Municipal Staff that they were unable to register a civic address for Sunset Beach due to Water Street not being recognized as the street name by the Provincial Public Works Department. PHADS would like to confirm the name of the street as Water Street to avoid further confusion and particularly because they want to formally register Sunset Beach's address and put up a street sign to allow first responders to easily locate the beach in the event of an emergency.

MOTION: *That a letter be issued from the Municipality to the Provincial Department of Public Works to formally request that Water Street Port Hood be so recognized.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Chisholm

SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips

MOTION CARRIED

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

i. HUMAN RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL POLICY UPDATE

MOTION: *That an addendum be circulated requesting that the current section of the Human Resources and Personnel Policy Manual be stricken through and a comment included to refer to the new addendum based on the new Act. The Human Resources and Personnel Policy Manual Article 11.11 (g) – Sick Leave currently states the following:
A Doctor's statement may be required after a sick leave of more than three (3) days. In such cases, the doctor's statement must outline the general nature of the employee's illness, when the employee may be able to return to work and what restrictions or limitations requiring accommodation the employee may have.
The new addendum based on Bill 256 – Patient Access to Care Act:
5 (1) An employer may not require a certificate with respect to an employee's absence from work due to the employee's sickness or injury unless:
(a) the absence continues for more than five consecutive working days; or
(b) the employee has had at least two non-consecutive absences of five or fewer working days due to sickness or injury in the preceding 12 months.
(2) A certificate permitted to be required under subsection (1) may be issued by a qualified health professional who is providing a diagnosis, treatment or care to the employee
(a) with respect to the sickness or injury that is causing the employee's absence from work;
(b) that falls within the scope of practice of the profession of the qualified health professional; and
(c) that falls within the individual scope of practice of the qualified health professional.*

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Gillis

SECONDED BY: Councillor MacLennan

MOTION CARRIED

ii. AMENDMENTS TO MARKETING LEVY BY-LAW

MOTION: *That First Reading be given to the amended version of the Marketing Levy By-law as included in the (June 22 COW) Council package and Second Reading and a Public Hearing date be set for September 7th, 2023.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Chisholm

SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier

MOTION CARRIED

iii. **COMMUNITY GRANT: CHÉTICAMP ECONOMIC COUNCIL: MOVE AND LIVE IN CHÉTICAMP**

MOTION: *That Council decline this \$5,000 request for website development and not fund this initiative.*

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Gillis

SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips

MOTION CARRIED

iv. **NOVA SCOTIA POWER EASEMENT; PETIT ETANG**

MOTION: *That Council consider granting an easement for a power line to Mr. Bruno Gaudet over PIDs 50106053 and 50071646.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Phillips

SECONDED BY: Councillor Chisholm

MOTION CARRIED

v. **REQUEST FOR LICENSE FOR CONTINUED USE OF YARD OVER MUNICIPAL LOT PID 50201888**

MOTION: *That Council deny the request for a license for continued use of yard over Municipal Lot PID 50201888*

MOVED BY: Councillor Chisholm

SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips

MOTION CARRIED

Deputy Warden Gillis abstained from voting on the motion.

vi. **LAND USE BY-LAW CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF WIND TURBINE DEVELOPMENT**

MOTION: *That the Planning Advisory Committee recommends to Municipal Council to approve the proposed amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law Concerning the Regulation of Wind Turbine Development to increase setback distances for Utility Scale Wind Turbines to 1 km and add a setback table that considers the number of wind turbines in a wind turbine farm with a generating capacity of 2 megawatts or more and insert accompanying definitions; and That Council give First Reading and schedule a Public Hearing.*

MOVED BY: Councillor MacLennan

SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips

MOTION CARRIED

vii. **LAND USE BY-LAW CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF WIND TURBINE DEVELOPMENT**

MOTION: *That Council direct staff to use the Cumberland County Wind Turbine By-Law model for future changes (e.g. decommissioning of turbines, property line setbacks, public consultations, health concerns)*

MOVED BY: Councillor Chisholm
SECONDED BY: Councillor MacLennan
MOTION CARRIED

viii. **LAND USE BY-LAW CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF WIND TURBINE DEVELOPMENT**

MOTION: *That the Public Hearing date re: amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law Concerning the Regulation of Wind Turbine Development is September 7, 2023.*

MOVED BY: Councillor MacLennan
SECONDED BY: Councillor Chisholm
MOTION CARRIED

7. **MUNICIPAL TAX RATES 2023-2024**

Council approved the 2024 General Operating Budget of \$22,641,900.00. There is no increase in tax rates for the upcoming fiscal year. The commercial property rate is \$1.91 per \$100 of taxable assessment, the residential tax rate is \$1.05 per \$100 of taxable assessment, the resource tax rate of \$1.05 per \$100 of taxable assessment and the forest property rate is \$0.25 per acre of property. Tax bills will be issued by the finance department this month.

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received from John Lohr, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding their partnership with the Housing Trust of Nova Scotia to invest \$20 million dollars in modular housing. The availability of serviceable land remains a barrier in advancing this initiative. Direction to staff that the Municipality respond to this request.

9. **NEXT MEETING DATE**

July 20th, 2023 9:30 am: Committee of the Whole

10. **IN CAMERA**

MOTION: *That Council move to "In Camera" at 4:04 pm to discuss matters related to land.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier
SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips
MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: *That Council move out of "In Camera" at 4:22 pm*

MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier
SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips
MOTION CARRIED

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *That Council adjourn at 4:22 pm*
MOVED BY: Councillor Phillips
MOTION CARRIED