

**Municipality of the County of Inverness
Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, January 11th, 2024
Council Chambers
3:00 pm**

MINUTES

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

Staff: Keith MacDonald, CAO
 Erin Gillis, COO
 Debbie Nicholson, Administrative Assistant to Council/CAO

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Warden Maclsaac called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm and welcomed all in attendance. Roll call was taken. Warden Maclsaac 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: Councillor Chisholm
MOTION CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: *That the Regular Council meeting minutes of December 7th 2023 be approved as presented.*
MOVED BY: Councillor Chisholm
SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips
MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: *That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of December 14th 2023 be approved as presented.*
MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier
SECONDED BY: Councillor MacLennan

MOTION CARRIED

4. PRESENTATION: Senator Réjean Aucoin

Mr. Réjean Aucoin introduced himself and his new role to Municipal Council. Réjean Aucoin, a lawyer for over thirty years, is a member of the Acadian community of Chéticamp and has been deeply involved in community development across Nova Scotia. He is a proud francophone leader and the founder and past president of the Association des juristes d'expression française de la Nouvelle-Écosse. On October 31, 2023, he was summoned to the Senate of Canada by Governor General Mary Simon, on the advice of prime minister Justin Trudeau. He is very excited about his new role and the opportunity to work for the residents on Nova Scotia.

5. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, Destination Cape Breton

MOTION: *That Council accept the Memorandum of Understanding with Destination Cape Breton Association as presented in the Council Package.*
MOVED BY: Councillor MacLennan, Deputy Warden Gillis
SECONDED BY: Councillor Chisholm
MOTION CARRIED

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Road Name Petition: Carroll Lane, Margaree Forks

MOTION: *That Council approve the naming of an unnamed private road off Mill Road Margaree Forks to Carroll Lane.*
MOVED BY: Councillor Phillips
SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier
MOTION CARRIED

Road Name Petition: Bell View Lane, Malagawatch

MOTION: *That Council approve the renaming of a private road (# 6303) in Malagawatch to Bell View Lane.*
MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Gillis
SECONDED BY: Councillor MacLennan
MOTION CARRIED

7. LIBRARY REPORT

The Municipality of the County of Inverness engaged Davis Pier to conduct a review of library services in the County, including community engagement on library services and creation of a strategic roadmap for future library programs. The key themes identified during this process include:

- There is a deep appreciation for existing library services.
- There is a desire for libraries to be community hubs.
- There is a desire for better in-person access and more close-to-home locations.
- Opportunities exist for leveraging community initiatives and collaborating with partners.
- There is a desire for increased and locally relevant communication.
- There is a potential desire for travelling or pop-up library services or events.
- There is a potential interest in a central library location, in addition to local branches.

Key recommendations resulting from this review include:

- Explore opportunities to explore communication with the public.
- Establish accountability and communication structures.
- Explore opportunities to strengthen the library's community hub function.
- Explore opportunities to offer library services in further locations.
- Explore the potential of a central library for Inverness County.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Property Valuation Services Corporation – During the month of January property owners received their property assessment notices with an appeal deadline of February 8th, 2024. Statistics were provided to Council regarding the assessment values for each municipality in the province.

Direction to staff to invite representatives from Property Valuation Services Corporation to present at a future meeting of Council.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

January 25th, 2024 9:30 am: Committee of the Whole

10. IN CAMERA

MOTION: *That the meeting go "in camera" at 4:20 pm to discuss a land item and a security item.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier

SECONDED BY: Deputy Warden Gillis

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: *That the meeting go out of "in camera" at 4:46 pm.*

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Gillis

SECONDED BY: Councillor Chisholm

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: *That the Municipality proceed with the sale of the former Chéticamp NSLC building to the Chéticamp Economic Council for \$1.00*
MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Gillis
SECONDED BY: Councillor Chisholm
MOTION CARRIED

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *That Council adjourn at 4:46 pm*
MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Gillis
MOTION CARRIED