

Municipality of the County of Inverness
Committee of the Whole Meeting
St. Peter's Parish Hall, Port Hood
Thursday, September 19th, 2024
9:30 am

MINUTES

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

Staff: Melanie Beaton, Deputy CAO
Brian Luciano, CFO
Debbie Nicholson, Administrative Assistant to Council/ CAO
Jason Calder, Acting Manager of Recreation and Community Wellness
Morgan Murray, Director of Culture and Community Development
Krista MacInnis, Recreation Program Coordinator

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: Deputy Warden Gillis

SECONDED BY: Councillor Lynn Chisholm

MOTION CARRIED

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – BRITISH HOME CHILDREN

The following acknowledgement was read by Warden MacIsaac:

Whereas: Between 1869 and 1948 over 100,000 children from toddlers to the age of eighteen were brought from all areas of the UK to Canada. These children were either adopted or used as a source of labour on farms and in Canadian households. They are known today as 'British Home Children' (BHC); and

Whereas: An estimated four million descendants of British Home Children are living in Canada today; and

Whereas: Many of these children settled on Cape Breton Island, where they contributed enormously to the building of the Island; and

Whereas: We especially honour those British Home Children who made Inverness County and area their home; and left, as their legacy, their descendants to carry on local development and traditions.

Whereas: Each year, on September 28th, which is National British Home Children Day in Canada, and British Home Child Day in Nova Scotia, cities and municipalities across Canada honour the memory of the British Home Children and their descendants.

Therefore: I, Bonny MacIsaac, Warden of the Municipality of the County of Inverness, Province of Nova Scotia, do hereby proclaim September 28th to be known as British Home Child Day in the Municipality of the County of Inverness.

4. PRESENTATION: Get Active Summer 2024 Recap; Krista MacInnis

A very successful and busy summer 2024 was had by the Get Active Summer Team. Under the leadership of summer student coordinator Marissa MacLellan, the group of 8 summer students helped facilitate a wide variety of activities in various communities. Summer staff provided support to existing events such as community festivals, road races and a triathlon. Multi sport programs were available in three communities, providing activities such as basketball, soccer and ball hockey. Beach tournament play saw 294 participants enjoy beach sports like volleyball, spikeball and pickleball. The Girls at Bat program boosted girl's softball in Inverness with plans to host their own teams next season. Lizzi's Loop Adventure Camp was a four session camp for local youth aged 4-6 featuring art projects, make believe and a hike. Wonderful feedback was received and program participants are looking forward to future summers with the Get Active Program.

5. STAFF REPORTS

(a) Chestley Carr, Public Works

During the past month there were nine repairs made to water distribution systems with the majority being in Port Hood, four in Inverness and two in Mabou. All water towers have been maintaining good levels to meet the needs in each community. Standpipe replacements and repairs have been completed throughout the municipality. Department staff will be assisting a local contractor in addressing maintenance and repairs to municipal street lights.

Ongoing maintenance projects include hydrant inspection and replacement where necessary and lift station inspection and repair as required. Lift station control panel replacements in Mabou and Port Hastings are scheduled during the Fall of 2024.

Sampling activities aimed at ensuring the Municipality adheres to its operational approvals have been successfully carried out, and no instances of exceedances have been detected. These sampling efforts encompass a range of parameters essential for maintaining compliance with regulatory standards, including water quality, quantity, and other relevant criteria specified in the operational approvals.

Vehicle speed statistics collected since August 1st in East Margaree, Margaree Forks and Cheticamp were provided.

Cross functional work included assisting the finance department with water utility service connects/disconnects and assisting with identifying water shut off locations. Assistance was also given to the Capital Projects and Planning team with access road development, review of water/wastewater service requests, and compliance reports for the NSECC.

Department staff began the creation of the administration building flower bed in August. They installed bark mulch and topsoil to the new garden and assisted employee Diana Austin with planting the beautiful flowers and shrubs.

(b) Erin Gillis, Operations Department

A new process for tracking incoming vehicle traffic, weights, and solid waste types is being developed with a targeted launch date of early November. Staff are working with Strait IT to ensure internet and hardware configurations are correct. A new monthly site inspection program has been completed for Kenloch. Inspection schedules will support compliance with updated regulations and allow for increased oversight of the facility.

Solid waste education initiatives have been published via social media, including the sort guide, litter study and beach bingo. Education events were held on July 30th and August 15th. Department staff have been working with PANS (Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia). A Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection event is scheduled for September 26th from 4pm – 7pm. The event will be held at the St. Joseph du Moine Firehall and the Whycomomagh Firehall.

There is regular contact with provincial bodies; RCMP, DNRR, & SPCA to gain a better understanding of what services provincial organizations and enforcement agencies can offer residents and with EDPC on dangerous and unsightly properties and illegal dumping. Staff continue to address concerns reported by residents such as roaming dogs and livestock and littering complaints.

Monthly site inspections and JOHSC meeting continue. A comprehensive risk assessment is being completed beginning with public works, water and wastewater treatment, recycling, curbside collection, and the Kenloch Waste Transfer facility. The workwear project is ready to launch and the inventory room is complete.

Projects currently ongoing include C&D regulatory changes, storage building construction in Kenloch, and review and assessment of the Extended Producer Responsibilities (EPR).

(c) Jason Calder, Recreation and Community Wellness

The Get Active Summer 2024 program has officially wrapped up. Recreation staff participated in 109 events throughout the county, including both internal programming and

community event support culminating with the Inverness County track and field meet which hosted 74 participants, beating last year's attendance of 67.

The Equity and Diversity Action team is being developed. The group will comprise members of Council as well as members at large. The Equity and Anti-Racism Strategy for the municipality is being developed.

The Seniors Council continues to develop the Age Friendly Action Plan for Inverness County as well as help in the planning of the upcoming Fall/Winter calendar for seniors Age Well sessions, beginning in October. Additional department projects include the accessibility plan update, Cheticamp Library assessment, and the accessibility report card.

Ongoing meetings include further planning of the Seniors Council, emergency preparedness for older adults/persons with disabilities, and First Aid training. Staff attended a meeting around accessibility best practices for festivals in Inverness County. The next steps are to work with communities to develop best and implement best practices for accessible events.

(d) Melanie Beaton, Capital Projects and Planning

The following projects were updated:

Ongoing Linear Infrastructure Projects

- Sanitary Sewer and Watermain Replacement Detailed Design, Central Ave., Inverness
- Port Hastings Rotary Water and Sanitary Sewer Re-Alignment
- Port Hood Convent Street Water Main Replacement

Complex Infrastructure Projects

- Whycomomagh Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection System
- Whycomomagh Effluent Pipe and Outfall
- Chéticamp Wastewater Treatment Plant Digester Walkway Replacement
- Inverness Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Inverness Outfall
- Judique Wastewater Treatment Plant & Outfall
- Chéticamp Wellfield Exploration
- Inverness Wellfield Expansion/Exploration
- Judique Dam Rehabilitation

Facilities/Buildings/Roads/Active Transportation

- Accessibility Improvements Municipal Building
- Complete Streets Design, Central Avenue
- Active Transportation Planning Whycomomagh
- Inverness Wellfield Access Road Improvements
- Jajiktek Seawall Trail Project
- Inverness Beach Canteen

Recreation Facility Development

- Inverness Outdoor Multi-Court Recreation Facility
- Inverness Multi-Court Recreation Facility Amenity Building Design

Compliance

- 2023 Water Utility Corrective Action Plans

- Source Water Protection
- Dunmore WTP (Water Treatment Plant) Backwash Pond Decommissioning
- Chéticamp PW1 Decommissioning

Planning and Development

- Development & Servicing
- Plan Inverness

Joint Committees, Foundational Documents, and Core Competencies

- Asset Management & Asset Inventory Development
- Sewer Bylaws

(e) Brian Luciano, Director of Finance

The month of August was a very busy one for Finance Department staff as that is when the bulk of the annual tax payments are received. Now that the August 30th payment deadline has passed staff will now focus on regular operations and the collection of delinquent accounts. Field work for the 2023-24 audit is complete. Grant Thornton is compiling final statements for approval.

Multiple projects are at various stages of completion including network infrastructure upgrades, water meter updates, a review of proposed changes to the intermunicipal agreement, and the preparation of provincial financial reports. The 2024 municipal election is to be held on October 19th. Staff have received all candidate packages and are arranging details for elections in districts 1, 5 and 6.

Multiple meetings continue regularly such as the finance department team, employee benefits, department heads, the Strait IT board, the Eastern District Planning Commission, and the water utility committee. Members of the finance, water, public works, and infrastructure teams meet regularly to review municipal service requests.

Multiple requests for proposals, requests for quotations and tenders are either open, awarded, or currently being evaluated.

(f) Morgan Murray, Department of Culture and Community Wellness

The Culture and Community Wellness team has been filling out applications and work being ramped up on healthcare professional attraction and retention, culture and heritage supports, food security, festival supports, and community volunteer organization supports.

Funding was received from the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing to support the Destination 252 project, as well as supporting staff growth. A large proposal was submitted to the Department of Economic Development to support addressing workforce housing challenges in the county. Eastern Counties Regional Library has agreed in principle to opening a new branch in Whycomogah in the new year.

Various community grants have been issued for the following initiatives:

- Cultural Centres Operating Grants
- Visitor Information Centres Operating Grants
- Beautification and Gardening Fund Grants
- Seasonal Employment Support Grants
- Culture and Heritage Programming and Events

In the coming months, staff will be looking to bring together healthcare professionals for a welcoming event, host county festival organizers in an engagement session, coordinate with museums and cultural centres to better support their needs, and advance the food security, housing, and population growth files.

6. COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION

- Creignish Recreation Centre – Energy Efficient Kitchen Upgrades

The Request of Council is \$3,500.00

Recommendation to fund this request in full with funds coming from District 6 CDC funds.

7. STRAIT IT – INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT

Recommendation that Council approve the proposed changes to the Strait IT Intermunicipal Agreement as presented in today's Council package.

8. PUBLIC HEARING DATE: MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF INVERNESS SUBDIVISION BY-LAW RE: PORT HOOD PRIVATE ROADS

The Public hearing date for the policy to allow subdivision of lands on private roads within the Port Hood Plan Area subject to the Municipality of the County of Inverness Subdivision By-Law will be at the following date and time:

Thursday, October 17th, 2024

12:00 pm

Council Chambers – 375 Main St., Port Hood

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- Eastern District Planning Commission - July and August building statistics were provided.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

October 3, 2024 – 3:00 pm, Regular Meeting of Council

11. "IN CAMERA"

MOTION: *That Council move to "In Camera" at 11:08 am to discuss a human resource item.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Chisholm

SECONDED BY: Councillor MacLennan

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: *That Council move out of "In Camera" at 11:13 am.*
MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Gillis
SECONDED BY: Councillor Chisholm
MOTION CARRIED

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *That Council adjourn at 11:13 am*
MOVED BY: Councillor Chisholm
MOTION CARRIED