

Regular Council Meeting  
Thursday, February 6th, 2025  
Council Chambers  
9:30 am

**MINUTES**

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

Staff: Keith MacDonald, CAO  
Melanie Beaton, Deputy CAO  
Brian Luciano, CFO  
Erin Gillis, COO  
Morgan Murray, Director of Culture and Community Development  
Debbie Nicholson, Administrative Assistant to Council/CAO  
Megan Wludyka, Chief Communications Officer  
Josh Wludyka, Director of Capital Projects Administration

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Warden MacIsaac called the meeting to order at 9:30 am and welcomed all in attendance. Roll call was taken.

**2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Warden MacIsaac acknowledged that the land on which we gather is located in the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** *That the agenda be approved as presented.*

**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Poirier

**MOTION CARRIED**

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** *That the Regular Council meeting minutes of January 9<sup>th</sup> 2025 be approved as presented.*

**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Gillis  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:** *That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2025 be approved as presented.*

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

**5. PRESENTATION; PROPERTY VALUATION SERVICES CORPORATION; Adam Hanna, Steve Howley, Ann Smith MacQuarrie, Charlene MacPhail, Laura MacLean**

Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) provides property assessment services and information for Nova Scotia's municipalities and property owners in accordance with the *Nova Scotia Assessment Act*. Each December, PVSC delivers an Assessment Roll to all 49 Nova Scotia municipalities so local governments can set their property tax rates. Every January, they deliver Property Assessment Notices to property owners so they can review, make inquiries, or appeal their assessments before receiving their municipal property tax bills. They also administer the Capped Assessment Program (CAP) and Seasonal Tourist Business Designation program on behalf of the Nova Scotia government. If a property owner disagrees with their assessed value they can file an appeal by February 13, 2025. Questions regarding property assessment can be directed to PVSC via their contact centre by telephone or e-mail.

**6. INTRODUCTION: CHIEF JOHN L. BERNARD, WE'KOQMA'Q FIRST NATION**

Warden MacIsaac introduced Chief John L. Bernard. Chief Bernard reclaimed the position of chief for We'koqma'q for the 2024-2028 term.

**7. POSTED SPEED LIMIT ASSESSMENT REQUEST**

The current posted speed limit on the Trans Canada Highway through the community of Waycobah First Nation is 60 km/hour. Chief Bernard indicated this was concerning to many residents who feel it should be reduced to 50 km/hour in light of the heavy traffic that goes through there, especially in the summer months. In addition residents feel additional turning lanes on the Trans Canada Highway both at the Orangedale turnoff and the village of Waycobah would improve safety.

*Direction to staff to write a joint letter on behalf of We'koqma'q First Nation to the provincial department of Public Works expressing these traffic concerns.*

Councillor Brandon Poulette from We'koqma'q First Nation has expressed an interest in being a member of the Joint Police Advisory Board. Councillor Poulette will be invited to the next Board meeting in April 2025.

## 8. APPLICATION: FCM GREEN MUNICIPAL FUND

**MOTION:** *Whereas the Municipality of the County of Inverness has an interest in building awareness of the key elements of climate adaptation in local communities, developing a snapshot of current adaptation efforts, and identifying actionable steps for building climate resilience in the municipality.*

*Whereas the Municipality of the County of Inverness is undertaking “A climate risk assessment and prioritized adaptation plan for Municipality of the County of Inverness.”*

***Be it resolved that** Inverness County Council acknowledges that McAllister & Craig Consultants is applying for a funding opportunity from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation initiative for Climate Adaptation initiative for “A climate risk assessment and prioritized adaptation plan for Municipality of the County of Inverness,” in partnership with the Municipality of the County of Inverness.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Gillis  
**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm  
**MOTION CARRIED**

## 9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- I. Margaree Development Association – Margaree Meals on Wheels (request is \$10,000)

**MOTION:** *That Council grant \$2500.00 to this project with funding coming from District 2 CDC funds. Any future contributions from the municipality towards this project will be revisited after April 1.*

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

- II. Belle Cote & Area Community Center – Belle Cote Community Beach Access

**MOTION:** *That Council grant this \$6,243.32 request in full with funding coming from District 2 CDC funds.*

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

III. North Mountain Cultural and Recreation Centre – furnace replacement

**MOTION:** *That Council grant this \$8,984.37 request in full with funding coming from District 6 CDC funds.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Gillis

**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm

**MOTION CARRIED**

IV. Heritage Advisory Committee – Recruitment for Heritage Advisory Committee

**MOTION:** ***WHEREAS**, the Municipality of Inverness County’s amended Heritage Property By-law #33 (2015) states that “there shall be established a Heritage Advisory Committee” and the Committee “shall consist of seven members”.*

***BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Municipality of Inverness County Council identifies:*

*a) the available appointment of five (5) citizens of the County to join our Heritage Advisory Committee as members at large, two (2) of whom shall be High School Students, as listed in the amended Heritage Property By-law #33 (2015). b) that we seek applicants with the following skills, assets and/or qualifications:*

*Committee Member applicants must:*

- *Be a resident of the Municipality of the County of Inverness for at least the last six (6) months before making an application and must continue to be a resident of the Municipality throughout the term of their appointment or resign,*
- *Be available to meet quarterly and for special meetings, either online or in person,*
- *Not be a member of Staff of the Municipality of Inverness County.*

*Ideal candidates will have any combination of the following skills and assets:*

- *Knowledge of built heritage in the county,*
- *Knowledge of the history of the county,*
- *Interest in helping preserve the built heritage in the county,*
- *Be an active member of a historical society in the county,*
- *Demonstrated previous concern for the preservation of properties with historical significance,*
- *Knowledge of the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada,*
- *Ability to receive correspondence by email, access digital documents in Word, Excel, or pdf formats, and have a working knowledge of computers.*

*Applications for this appointment will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on March 1, 2025.*

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Chisholm  
SECONDED BY: Councillor Gillis  
MOTION CARRIED

#### 10. LOAN GUARANTEE REQUEST – INVERNESS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

MOTION: *WHEREAS the Inverness Volunteer Fire Department is a registered fire department with the Municipality of the County of Inverness.*  
*WHEREAS the Inverness Volunteer Fire Department is incorporated by the Societies Act.*  
*WHEREAS the Inverness Volunteer Fire Department has determined to borrow the aggregate principal amount of Eight Hundred Twenty One Thousand dollars (\$821,000.00) for the purpose of building renovations by special resolution on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025 as per section 10 (d) of the Societies Act.*  
*WHEREAS the Inverness Volunteer Fire Department has requested the Municipality of the County of Inverness to guarantee the said borrowing.*  
*WHEREAS Section 294(6) of the Municipal Government Act provides that a municipality may grant or lend money to, or guarantee a loan for, a registered fire department for operating or capital purposes; and*  
*WHEREAS Section 88(3) of the Municipal Government Act provides that no guarantee of a borrowing by a municipality shall have effect unless the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has approved of the proposed borrowing or debenture and of the proposed guarantee;*  
**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**  
*THAT the Council of the Municipality of the County of Inverness does hereby approve the borrowing by the Inverness Volunteer Fire Department of Eight Hundred Twenty One Thousand dollars (\$821,000.00) for the purpose set out above;*  
*THAT subject to the approval of the Minister of the Municipal Affairs and Housing of the guarantee, the Municipality unconditionally guarantee repayment of the principal and interest of the borrowing so made;*

MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis  
SECONDED BY: Deputy Warden Chisholm  
MOTION CARRIED

#### 11. NOTICE OF MOTION: AMENDMENTS TO THE VENDING BYLAW

CAO MacDonald informed Council that amendments to the Municipal Vending Bylaw will be brought forward for First Reading at the February 20<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole Council meeting.

## **12. NOTICE OF MOTION: EXPENSE POLICY**

CAO MacDonald informed Council that updates to the Municipal Expense Policy will be brought forward at the February 20<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole Council meeting.

## **13. MUNICIPAL CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING**

Notice of mandatory online training for Municipal Councillors will be made available in the coming weeks regarding the newly adopted Code of Conduct Policy.

## **14. COMMEMORATION HEROIC AWARDS**

Correspondence was provided to Council regarding various heroic awards made available by the federal and provincial governments. Council can review these awards and bring any feedback back to Council for a future heroic community member award.

## **15. NEXT MEETING DATE**

February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 9:30 am: Committee of the Whole.

## **16. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** *That Council adjourn at 11:15 am.*  
**MOVED BY:** Councillor Phillips  
**MOTION CARRIED**