

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

## MINUTES

Council: Warden Bonny MacIsaac  
Deputy Warden Lynn Chisholm  
Councillor John MacLennan  
Councillor Catherine Gillis  
Councillor Blair Phillips (online)

Staff: Keith MacDonald, CAO  
Melanie Beaton, Deputy CAO  
Brian Luciano, CFO  
Erin Gillis, COO  
Chestley Carr, Director of Public Works  
Jason Calder, Acting Manager of Recreation and Community Wellness  
Morgan Murray, Director of Culture and Community Development  
Megan Wludyka, Chief Communications Officer  
Debbie Nicholson, Administrative Assistant to Council/CAO

### 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 Gillis  
**MOTION CARRIED**

### 4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH:

*The following proclamation was read by Warden MacIsaac:*

*Whereas Purple Day is a global effort dedicated to promoting epilepsy awareness in countries around the world, and*

*Whereas epilepsy is one of the most common neurological conditions, estimated to affect over 50 million people worldwide and 42 people in Canada are diagnosed every day, and*

*Whereas one in ten persons will have at least one seizure during his or her lifetime, and*

*Whereas the public is often unable to recognize common seizure types, or how to respond with appropriate first aid, and*

*Whereas Purple Day will be celebrated on March 26 annually to increase understanding, reduce stigma and improve the quality of life for people with epilepsy throughout the country and globally.*

*Now, therefore, I do hereby proclaim March 26, 2025, "Purple Day", in an effort to raise awareness of epilepsy in Canada.*

#### **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** *That the Regular Council meeting minutes of February 6<sup>th</sup> 2025 be approved as presented.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Gillis

**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:** *That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes February 20<sup>th</sup> 2025 be approved as presented.*

**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor MacLennan

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **6. PRESENTATION; West Side Performing Arts Cooperative; Brenda Dunphy, Darlene Ellis-Beaton, Cindy O'Neill**

The main objective of the West Side Performing Arts Cooperative (WESPAC) is to establish a cross-county collective of performing artists and support personnel that provide coordination of presentations and opportunities for artists to present their skills. Incorporated in 2011 WESPAC has hosted many events such as plays, a concert series, musical productions, a cabaret series and has done youth programming and workshops. WESPAC supports local halls and venues through the rental of spaces for rehearsals, workshops and productions. It tells local stories and brings community characters to life, promotes culture and gives residents of all ages and talents the opportunity to participate in the arts.

7. PRESENTATION: Margaree & Area Development Association; Eileen Coady, Bill Haley, Mike Kofahl

The Margaree and Area Development Association's (MADA) mission is to represent all residents of the Margarees by celebrating their heritage and protecting and developing the area's environmental, social, cultural and economic resources. Current activities of MADA include the day-to-day upkeep of the building and grounds of the Drs. Coady Tompkins Memorial Library and Margaree Meeting Place (MMP) where space is provided in the lower floor to the Inverness County Literacy Council and as a weekly depot for producers and consumers for the Pan CapeBreton Food Hub. Space is also provided for the seasonal Visitor Information Centre/ C@P site, the comfort station/public washroom facility and the Level 2 EV Charging Station. An outdoor stage on the Library grounds was completed in early November 2024. MADA recognizes the significant issue of food insecurity and has partnered with both the Margaree Food Security Society and Margaree Meals on Wheels over the past year. MADA continues an initiative of recent years with informal meetings 3- 4 times a year between local organizations, venues and community centres to update each other of plans and projects and to discuss common concerns.

8. PRESENTATION: Inverness County Operators; Chestley Carr, Diana Austin

The municipality has a team of six operators that work within the Public Works Department. They manage the daily needs of the seven municipal water facilities throughout the county. Staff perform weekly alkalinity tests at treatment facilities to monitor corrosion within the system, as well as weekly bacterial samples at set locations within each community to ensure adequate treatment and adherence to Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change (NSE) rules and regulations. Staff also perform bi-annual testing of metals and nutrients, including mercury and annual testing for lead and copper. They monitor for weaknesses and failures within systems and equipment (leaks, breaks, malfunctions, etc.) and respond accordingly to emergency situations such as water main breaks, which may or may not require situationally specific testing.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Community Matters Allons-y ensemble - The Cheticamp Adventure Map (district 1)

**MOTION:** *That Council grant \$1000.00 to this project with funding coming from District 1 CDC funds.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Gillis

**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm

**MOTION CARRIED**

II. Community Matters Allons-y ensemble - The Cheticamp Adventure Map (district 2)

**MOTION:** *That Council grant \$500.00 to this project with funding coming from District 2 CDC funds.*

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

*Councillor Gillis declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting.*

III. Dr. John Waters Community Health Centre – Roof Replacement

**MOTION:** *That Council grant this \$4,000.00 request in full with funding coming from District 5 CDC funds.*

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

IV. Dr. John Waters Community Health Centre – Defibrillator

**MOTION:** *That Council grant 50 % of this request (\$1558.52) with funding coming from District 5 CDC funds and that Council grant \$500 to this request from District 3 CDC funds.*

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

*Councillor Gillis returned to the meeting.*

V. Port Hood & District Recreation Commission – Elevator Replacement

**MOTION:** *That Council grant this \$15,030.00 request in full with funds coming from the Recreation Facility Grant Fund.*

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

VI. Tax Relief Request: La Plage St. Pierre Beach and Campground

**MOTION:** *That the municipality deny the request for the removal of interest on the municipal tax accounts 02402181, 10350654, & 10554381 of the Enterprise Cormier Ltee O/A Plage St.-Pierre Beach and Campground.*

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

**MOTION:** *That the tax accounts 02402181, 10350654, & 10554381 be removed from the tax sale process and the \$750.00 search fee be removed pending payment arrangements.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Gillis

**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **10. SECOND READING: EXPENSE POLICY**

**MOTION:** *That Council give Second Reading to the Expense Policy as included in today's Council package.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Gillis

**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **11. FIRST READING: HOSPITALITY POLICY**

**MOTION:** *That Council give First Reading to the Hospitality Policy as included in today's Council package.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Gillis

**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **12. NEXT MEETING DATE**

March 20th, 2025 9:30 am: Committee of the Whole.

#### **13. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** *That Council adjourn at 11:13 am.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Gillis

**MOTION CARRIED**