

Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, July 3rd, 2025
Council Chambers
9:30 am

MINUTES

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

Staff: Keith MacDonald, CAO
Melanie Beaton, Deputy CAO
Brian Luciano, CFO
Erin Gillis, COO
Debbie Nicholson, Administrative Assistant to Council/CAO
Morgan Murray, Director of Culture and Community Development
Michelle Coffin, Governance and By-law Researcher
Megan Wludyka, Chief of Communications

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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: *That the Regular Council meeting minutes of June 5th 2025 be approved as presented.*

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

MOTION: *That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes June 19th 2025 be approved as presented.*

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

5. PRESENTATION: MUKTHAR LIMPAO; EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, L'ARCHE CAPE BRETON

L'Arche Cape Breton is a not-for-profit organization supporting people with intellectual disabilities and creating community through homes and day programs. They have a presence in three locations across Inverness County; Iron Mines, Orangedale and Mabou.

The Nova Scotia Human Rights Remedy provides a framework to guide the government's work to close large residential facilities for people living with disabilities and transition them to supported community living. The remedy consists of six interconnected key directions:

- a new system of individualized planning and support co-ordination to drive more person-directed and local community-based supports and services
- closing institutions
- building a broader system of community-based supports and services to support a home and life in the local community
- provincewide multidisciplinary support program with regional hubs including other clinical supports to support local options
- individualized funding as the basis of the transformed system with "backbone" support functions
- strengthening whole disability system capacity to enable transformation to a human rights approach

At the last year of this 5 year mandate, one of the L'Arche homes will need to reduce capacity. This is in response to one of the key directions – closing institutions. The province defines an institution as having more than 4 individuals living in one home. L'Arche Cape Breton has a home with 5 core members.

6. PRESENTATION: LAURA EMERY; CEO, EASTERN COUNTIES REGIONAL LIBRARY (ECRL)

Regional libraries in Nova Scotia are funded by operating grants from the Nova Scotia Government (Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage) and municipal governments. In the 8 rural regions (non-HRM), the split is 71% Provincial 26% Municipal, 3% Library Board. The amount each pays, and the total, is determined by the provincial government in a 5-year Funding Formula. The most recent formula was for April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2025. The formula does not include any annual increases for inflation or other service increases. Since the

implementation of the formula in 2020, one-time relief grants have been provided in 2023, 2024 and 2025.

In 2024 the province formed a new Library Funding Review Committee to bring forward recommendations for an updated formula. However, the province did not implement a new funding formula for April 2025 resulting in funding challenges for ECRL. ECRL will be working to prevent declines in service by advocating with the provincial government and engaging with municipal partners.

7. PRESENTATION; SHELTON BENOIT, DAWN MACLEAN; WEST RICHMOND RIDERS ASSOCIATION

The West Richmond Riders Association (WRRRA) was formed in 2020 and is located on the border of Richmond County and Inverness County. They are a volunteer off highway vehicle organization. In recent years the group has expanded their trail network and are seeking assistance from the municipality to expand the trail system into Inverness County. Funding of \$10,000 is being asked of the association. Council will consider the request.

8. STRAIT REGIONAL CENTRE FOR EDUCATION (SRCE) EDUCATOR IMPACT AWARDS

Warden MacIsaac extended congratulations on behalf of the Municipality of Inverness County to the following recipients of the 2024–2025 SRCE Educator Impact Awards:

- Kim Warcop Bayview Education Centre
- Jasmin Cameron, Cape Breton Highlands Education Centre/Academy
- Marion MacLellan, Dalbrae Academy
- Jesse Fraser, Inverness Education Centre/Academy
- Mike MacDonald, SAERC
- Lori Shaw, Whycomomagh Education Centre

9. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE JUNE 16TH COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

I. Orangedale Improvement Society – Gazebo repairs

MOTION: *That Council fund this \$4,300.00 request in full with funds coming from District 4 CDC funds.*

MOVED BY: Councillor MacLennan

SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips

MOTION CARRIED

II. Road Name Change Request – Gaudet Lane

MOTION: *That Council approve to name 6016 Road in District 1 Gaudet Lane.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier

SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips
MOTION CARRIED

III. Road Name Change – Angus Archie Road

MOTION: *That Council approve to name a currently unnamed road off Northeast Mabou Road, District 5 (NS DPW Authority # IN0621) to Angus Archie Road.*
MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Chisholm
SECONDED BY: Councillor Gillis
MOTION CARRIED

IV. Tax Account Write Offs

MOTION: *That Council write off the uncollectable taxes as provided in the June 19th Council package totalling \$83,127.19.*
MOVED BY: Councillor Phillips
SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier
MOTION CARRIED

V. Water Account Write Offs

MOTION: *That Council write off the uncollectable water accounts as provided in the June 19th Council package totaling \$3,788.65.*
MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis
SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier
MOTION CARRIED

10. INVERNESS COUNTY ASYLUM

The Inverness County Asylum Commemoration Project includes site restoration, interpretive signage, a permanent memorial, and long-term stewardship planning—developed in partnership with historians, volunteers, and family members

A letter of invitation has been drafted for the provincial Department of Opportunities and Social Development inviting the Province of Nova Scotia, to provide leadership and support for a province-wide initiative to commemorate former county-run asylums.

Letters have also been drafted for neighboring municipalities (Richmond County, Town of Port Hawkesbury and Victoria County) inviting members of council, staff, and the wider community to learn more about the initiative and explore a collaborative approach to commemorating the facility and those who died there.

Direction to staff to issue the above noted 4 letters.

11. NOVA SCOTIA POWER CYBER BREACH

Correspondence was provided to Council regarding an in-person assistance to customers impacted by the recent cyber incident. This session was held on June 23rd at the Inverness Legion.

Direction to staff to invite representatives from Nova Scotia Power to a future meeting of Council to provide an update on the recent security breach.

12. FIRST READING: Repeal of Bylaw 8 – Mischiefs and Nuisances

MOTION: *That Council give First Reading to the Repeal of Bylaw 8 – Mischiefs and Nuisances.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis

SECONDED BY: Deputy Warden Chisholm

MOTION CARRIED

13. FIRST READING: Repeal of Bylaw 11 – Curfew

MOTION: *That Council give First Reading to the Repeal of Bylaw 11 – Curfew.*

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Chisholm

SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier

MOTION CARRIED

14. NOTICE OF MOTION

Notice was provided to Council that during an upcoming meeting the following policy will be put before Council for consideration and discussion. All relevant information required will be provided in the Council package in advance of the discussions.

- Municipal Fees Policy

15. RECREATION AND COMMUNITY WELLNESS SUMMER STUDENT TEAM

The following summer students were introduced to Council:

Trails Team: Joseph MacDonald, Alexander Rankin and Roddie Gillis.

Get Active 2025 Team: Kateag Hawley, Marisa MacLellan, Hayden Gillies, Brooke MacLellan, Carly Beaton, Kacey MacDonald, Carly Freimanis, Violet MacDonald, and Isla Gillies.

A wide range of activities are available for youth aged 4 and older including: Lizzi's Loop adventures, multi-sport programs, summer explosion, arts and crafts, super science day, girls at bat, brick builders lego club, as well as spikeball and volleyball tournaments.

16. CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence was received from The Attorney General and Minister of Justice regarding the renewed policing model in Nova Scotia.

Correspondence was received from the Department of Municipal Affairs regarding the current review of the Municipal Planning Strategy Land Use Bylaw amendments regarding Wind Turbines.

17. NEXT MEETING DATE

July 17th, 2025 9:30 am: Committee of the Whole.

18. IN CAMERA

MOTION: *That Council move to "In Camera" at 12:01 pm to discuss a contract item and a Human Resource item.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis

SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: *That Council move out of "In Camera" at 12:17 pm*

MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier

SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips

MOTION CARRIED

19. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *That Council adjourn at 12:17 pm*

MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier

MOTION CARRIED