

Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, October 2nd, 2025
Beinn Mhàbu, Mabou
9:30 am

MINUTES

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

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

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

4. PROCLAMATION: MI'KMAQ HISTORY MONTH

Deputy Warden Chisholm read the enclosed proclamation:

WHEREAS Mi'kmaq History Month was established in 1993 by the Province of Nova Scotia in partnership with the Mi'kmaq Grand Council, to recognize and celebrate Mi'kmaq culture and heritage; and

***WHEREAS** Treaty Day on October 1st celebrates the anniversary of the 1752 Treaty of Friendship and Peace, which is still in effect today; and*

***WHEREAS** October provides an opportunity for all Nova Scotians to learn more about Mi'kmaq history, traditions, and contributions, and to strengthen relationships built on respect and understanding; and*

***WHEREAS** the Municipality of the County of Inverness is located on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People, and acknowledges the importance of honouring this enduring connection; and*

***WHEREAS** celebrating Mi'kmaq History Month supports the work of reconciliation and encourages a deeper appreciation of the Mi'kmaq Nation's role in shaping the past, present, and future of our province;*

***THEREFORE**, I Lynn Chisholm, Deputy Warden of the Municipality of the County of Inverness do hereby proclaim*

*October 2025 as “**Mi'kmaq History Month**” in the Municipality of the County of Inverness.*

We encourage all residents to take part in learning, reflection, and community events that celebrate the rich culture, history and ongoing contributions of the Mi'kmaq people.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: *That the Regular Council meeting minutes of September 4th 2025 be approved as presented.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Phillips

SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: *That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of September 18th 2025 be approved as presented.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis

SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips

MOTION CARRIED

6. PRESENTATION: MORGAN MURRAY, TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY PLANNING

With support from the Rural Transit Solutions Fund the Municipality is leading a collaborative public engagement project in partnership with Strait Area Transit (SAT) and L'Acadie to explore and improve rural public transportation across the region. This initiative aims to gather broad and inclusive community input to identify needs, gaps and opportunities for strengthening local transit

services. Engagement objectives include identifying gaps in current transportation services, understanding the needs of community groups, increase awareness of transit options and support the growth and sustainability of transportation services. The engagement strategy will involve 6 community sessions (1 in each municipal district) to gather general public feedback. These sessions are scheduled for late October and early November 2025.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SEPTEMBER 18TH COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

I. District 2: Cranton Cross Road Community Centre, Partial Roof Replacement

MOTION: *That Council grant this \$3,995.73 request in full with funds coming from District 2 CDC Funds.*
MOVED BY: Councillor Phillips
SECONDED BY: Councillor Gillis
MOTION CARRIED

II. District 3: Inverness Regional Minor Ball Association, Ned MacDonald Memorial Ballfield Door Upgrades

MOTION: *That Council grant this \$5,343.43 request in full with funds coming from Recreation Facility Funds.*
MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis
SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier
MOTION CARRIED

III. District 6: North Mountain Cultural & Recreation Association, Website Build & Property Repairs

MOTION: *That Council grant this \$2,774.29 request in full with funds coming from District 6 CDC Funds.*
MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis
SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips
MOTION CARRIED

8. PUBLIC INPUT – REPEAL OF BYLAW 25 BUILDING BYLAW

Deputy Warden Chisholm asked if there were any oral or written submissions regarding the repeal of Bylaw 25 Building Bylaw. None were received.

9. SECOND READING – REPEAL OF BYLAW 25 BUILDING BYLAW

MOTION: *That Council adopt Bylaw 59 - A Bylaw to Repeal Bylaw 25 – Building Bylaw effective today.*

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

10. POLICIES FOR ADOPTION

I. Municipal Fees Policy

MOTION: *That Council adopt the **Municipal Fees Policy** - policy number: 2025-10-02 - effective today.*

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

II. Kenloch Tipping Fees Policy (repeal)

MOTION: *That Council approve **A Policy Respecting the Repeal of Tipping Fees Kenloch Waste Management Facility** effective today.*

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

III. Vending Permit Fees Policy (repeal)

MOTION: *That Council adopt **A Policy Respecting the Repeal of Policy Number 2021-06-17: Vending Permit Fees Policy** effective today.*

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

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice was provided to Council that during upcoming meetings the following bylaws and 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.

- I. Bylaw 48- Dog Control (repeal and replace)
- II. Bylaw 12 – Regulation of Animals (repeal and replace)
- III. Dangerous and Unsightly Premises Policy (repeal and replace)
- IV. Illegal Dumping (new bylaw)

12. GRID (GROWTH AND RENEWAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM) PROGRAM RESOLUTION

MOTION: *That Council supports the submission of the project MCI-TEN-2025-006 – Lift Station #1 Replacement (Port Hood) for funding consideration under the Nova Scotia Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development Program.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis

SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips

MOTION CARRIED

***Whereas** Lift Station #1 in Port Hood was originally installed in the 1970s and has now surpassed its intended operational lifespan.*

***Whereas**, the current Lift Station #1 is equipped with only a single pump, making it non-compliant with modern wastewater infrastructure standards that require redundancy.*

***Whereas** the existing piping configuration at Lift Station #1 cannot accommodate the addition of a second pump, thereby preventing the implementation of necessary redundancy or capacity upgrades.*

***Whereas** an active crack has been identified in the discharge piping of Lift Station #1, posing a risk of leakage and potential failure of the system.*

***Whereas**, Lift Station #1 is not equipped with a backup power supply, resulting in possible sewage overflows during power outages and associated environmental and public health risks.*

***Whereas** the Municipality of the County of Inverness is proposing the project MCI-TEN-2025-006 – Lift Station #1 Replacement (Port Hood) to replace the aging lift station and address these critical issues.*

***Whereas**, the total estimated cost of the Lift Station #1 Replacement project is \$1,485,000, to be funded on a 50/50 basis by the Nova Scotia Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development Program and the Municipality of the County of Inverness (with the municipal share of approximately \$742,500 to be allocated in the 2026/2027 Capital Budget).*

***Be it resolved that** the Council of the Municipality of the County of Inverness supports the submission of the project MCI-TEN-2025-006 – Lift Station #1 Replacement (Port Hood) for funding consideration under the Nova Scotia Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development Program.*

Inverness County Council also commits to provide the required municipal contribution of fifty percent of the project cost (approximately \$742,500), with this amount to be included in the Municipality's 2026/2027 Capital Budget.

13. APPROVAL OF TEMPORARY BORROWING RESOLUTION AND PRE-APPROVAL FORM

MOTION: *That Council supports the enclosed borrowing resolution for the purpose of the purchase of a 2026 RAM 8 Yard Garbage Truck.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis

SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier

MOTION CARRIED

WHEREAS *Section 66 of the Municipal Government Act provides that the Council of the Municipality of Inverness, subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, may borrow to expend funds for a capital purpose as authorized by statute;*

WHEREAS *the Council of the Municipality of Inverness has adopted a capital budget for this fiscal year as required by Section 65 of the Municipal Government Act and are so authorized to expend funds for a capital purpose as identified in their capital budget; and*

WHEREAS *the Council of the Municipality of Inverness has determined to borrow for the purposes of Purchase of 2026 RAM 8 Yard Garbage Truck;*

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED

THAT *under the authority of Section 66 of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of the Municipality of Inverness borrow a sum or sums not exceeding two hundred and eight thousand, two hundred and twenty nine Dollars (\$208,229.00) for the purpose set out above, subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;*

THAT *the sum be borrowed by the issue and sale of debentures of the Council of the Municipality of Inverness to such an amount as the Council deems necessary;*

THAT *the issue of debentures be postponed pursuant to Section 92 of the Municipal Government Act and that the Council borrow from time to time a sum or sums not exceeding two hundred and eight thousand, two hundred and twenty nine Dollars (\$208,229.00) in total from any chartered bank or trust company doing business in Nova Scotia;*

THAT *the sum be borrowed for a period not exceeding Twelve (12) Months from the date of the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing of this resolution;*

THAT *the interest payable on the borrowing be paid at a rate to be agreed upon; and*

THAT the amount borrowed be repaid from the proceeds of the debentures when sold.

14. MARGAREE AIRSTRIP COMMUNITY SURVEY

Results of the Margaree Airstrip Community Survey, held during the summer of 2025 were provided to Council. 129 residents responded to the survey. Overall, the responses show that while there is interest in diverse uses, many residents remain strongly connected to the site's aviation history and community traditions. The survey also asked residents what they would not like to see developed on the site. A recurring concern was the possibility of the land being acquired by private developers, which many feared would restrict public access. The top three community priorities for the site were: 1. Open and accessible to the public 2. Locally owned or operated 3. Supports the local economy or jobs.

15. CORRESPONDENCE:

- Correspondence was received from Norman Earle regarding clarification on correspondence requirements of Council.
- Correspondence was received from the Fire Services Association of Nova Scotia regarding the recent Fire Services Governance Study.

16. NEXT MEETING DATE

October 16th, 2025 9:30 am: Committee of the Whole.

17. IN CAMERA

MOTION: *That Council move to "In Camera" at 10:50 am to discuss a land item.*
Moved by: Councillor Gillis
Seconded by: Councillor Phillips
MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: *That Council move out of "In Camera" at 11:07 am.*
Moved by: Councillor Phillips
Seconded by: Councillor Gillis
MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: *That the Municipality advance the Request for Proposal MCI-RFP-2025-003; RFP for the Lease and Use of the former Margaree Airstrip Property.*
Moved by: Councillor Phillips
Seconded by: Councillor Poirier
MOTION CARRIED

18. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *That Council adjourn at 11:07 am*
MOVED BY: Councillor Phillips
MOTION CARRIED