

Committee of the Whole Meeting  
Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
9:30 am  
Council Chambers

## MINUTES

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

Staff: Keith MacDonald, CAO  
Melanie Beaton, Deputy CAO  
Erin Gillis, Chief of Operations  
Morgan Murray, Director, Culture and Community Development  
Crystal Jones, Director, Solid Waste  
Debbie Nicholson, Administrative Assistant to Council/CAO  
Megan Wludyka, Chief Communications Officer  
Anna Solomon, Accessibility & Senior Safety 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.

### 2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The following was read by Warden MacIsaac:

*This morning when I was leaving home, I walked out and was greeted by over 30 Bohemian waxwings in a tree. It was a pleasant surprise. It made me wonder what they represent on the totem pole.*

*The Bohemian waxwing totem symbolizes selfless generosity, community, and playfulness, stemming from their behaviour of sharing berries and their nomadic, flocking nature. As a totem, they can represent a call to share what you have, a reminder of the importance of community, and an encouragement to embrace joy and dexterity in life.*

*A flag is a powerful symbol that can represent a nation, its history, values, and people through its colours, symbols, and design. Flags often serve as a source of unity, pride, and identity, evoking emotions and communicating messages without words.*

*The most common Mi'kmaq flag, also known as the Santé Mawio'mi or the Grand Council Flag, it is white with a red cross and a red star. The symbols represents key concepts:*

*Symbols and their meanings*

- *White background (Wapék): Purity of Creation*
- *Red cross (Mekwék Klujjewey): Represents mankind and infinity, also symbolizing the four directions*
- *Red star (Nákúset): The forces of the day*
- *Red moon (Tepkunaset): The forces of the night*

*Additional details*

- *The flag is a symbol of the Mi'kmaq Grand Council. The traditional and spiritual governance of the Mi'kmaq people.*
- *The seven-pointed star on older versions of the flag represents the seven districts of Mikmakik, the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq. The eight-pointed star represents the addition of the Crown after treaties were signed with Britain, according to the Government of Nova Scotia.*
- *The flag is used in ceremonies and community events across Atlantic Canada.*
- *It is a significant symbol of the Mi'kmaq Nation's traditional governance and cultural identity.*

*I would like to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is located on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.*

### **3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** *That the agenda be approved as amended:  
New Item # 4) First Reading and schedule a Public Hearing: Development Agreement for a consignment store on PID 50292820, Highway 252, Whycocomagh.  
New Item # 5) First Reading and schedule a Public Hearing: amendment to the Chéticamp Plan Area Land Use By-law to rezone PID# 50102276, La Prairie, Inverness County, to Rural Commercial General (RC-2).*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Poirier

**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **4. FIRST READING AND SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING: DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR A CONSIGNMENT STORE ON PID 50292820, HIGHWAY 252, WHYCOCOMAGH.**

**MOTION:** *That Council give First Reading and schedule a Public Hearing date of December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 9:00 am for a Development Agreement for a consignment store on PID 50292820, Highway 252, Whycocomagh.*

**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm

SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips  
MOTION CARRIED

5. FIRST READING AND SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING: AMENDMENT TO THE CHÉTICAMP PLAN AREA LAND USE BY-LAW TO REZONE PID# 50102276, LA PRAIRIE, INVERNESS COUNTY, TO RURAL COMMERCIAL GENERAL (RC-2).

MOTION: *That Council give First Reading and schedule a Public Hearing date of December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 9:00 am for an amendment to the Chéticamp Plan Area Land Use By-law to rezone PID# 50102276, La Prairie, Inverness County, to Rural Commercial General (RC-2).*

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Chisholm

SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips

MOTION CARRIED

6. STAFF REPORTS

(a) Erin Gillis, Operations Department

Solid Waste Management:

- Contracted review of curbside collection routes is nearly finalized.
- Kenloch Waste Management (electronic billing is now available, C & D and solid waste transfer is ongoing, scrap metal removal RFP has been awarded).

Strathlorne Recycling Facility:

- 6 week delay at receiving site caused congestion and process difficulties at Strathlorne.
- 28MT of recyclable material was transferred.
- Diversion programs are being promoted.
- Scrap metal recovery project starting in November. Removal and recycling of electric wires and cords will move from Kenloch to Strathlorne.

Solid Waste Education:

- Communication (updated sort guide, communications ideas for paint, batteries, lights etc).
- Waste Reduction Week (October 20 – 24). 7 participants for the sewing workshop.
- 40 calls to the solid waste hotline during the month of October.

Bylaw Enforcement

- Divert NS Enforcement Meeting held in November with updates from each municipal unit.
- Ongoing work with NSECC on illegal dumping and clean up options.
- One dog control bylaw violation has been received and investigated.

OHS

- Onsite inspections continue; the team is working to implement corrective actions

#### Emergency Management

- Comfort center agreements and processes are in development. REMO/REOC process, staffing and responsibility continues.

#### Project Status

- Kenloch storage building is on time, OHS policy development is on time, and bylaws for solid waste and animal control are progressing.

### **(b) Department of Recreation and Community Wellness**

#### Recreation Program initiatives and highlights:

- Seniors Week Crafting – 3 events held recently, with 2 more to come in December.
- Bike Repair Day – 7 bikes repaired at the Inverness Academy; to return in the spring.
- Inverness County Race Series – finished for the season, to relaunch in the spring.
- Multi-Courts opening – Community Education session for online bookings.
- Santa for Seniors – proposals approved and items ordered.
- Team members participated in the Annual Recreation Nova Scotia Conference in Sydney.
- Staff hosted Release & Renew Women's Wellness Retreat (in collaboration with Geraldine MacDonald & Carol Ann Manwaring).
- Smart TV user guide to be created.
- Sensory skate funding approval has been received.
- Programs launching soon include Learn to Skate, Junior Scientists, Girls Volleyball.
- Events currently in the planning stages include Murder Mystery Games Night, Grant Writing Clinic, Stir the Pot Meal Prep and Chair Yoga/ Floor Exercises.

### **(c) Melanie Beaton, Deputy CAO**

#### The following projects were updated:

- Inverness Wastewater Treatment Plant and Outfall
- Judique Wastewater Treatment Plant and Outfall
- Port Hood Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall
- Whycocomagh Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall
- Judique Dam
- Port Hood Lift Station # 1 and # 3
- Chéticamp Lift Station # 3 and # 5
- Central Avenue Water and Wastewater Replacement
- Central Avenue Complete Streets
- Jajiktek Seawall Trail
- Whycocomagh Active Transportation Planning
- Foyer Pere Fiset
- Port Hood Community Park
- Destination 252 Signage Plan

- Kenloch C&D Cell Closure
- Port Hastings Roundabout
- Source of Supply (Chéticamp/Inverness/Mabou/ Port Hood)
- Veteran's Memorial Court
- Generator 375 Main Street
- Chéticamp Wastewater Treatment Plant Digester
- Community Centre Improvements in Meat Cove and Pleasant Bay
- Inverness Multi-Court Facility
- Source Water protection Planning for all 6 water supplies
- Asset Management and Asset Inventory Management
- Sewer Discharge Bylaw

**(d) Christina MacDonell, Finance Department**

Department Highlights:

- 2024-25 Audit – onsite audit work is complete, goal of December for audited statements.
- All payroll remittance and HST claims are current with CRA.
- 150 residents switching to the e-billing option for tax and water billing.
- Electronic payments platform is now live; some vendors can now be paid via direct deposit thus reducing the cost of postage and physical cheques.
- Purchase Orders are now required of all staff prior to purchasing.
- Monthly meetings continue with department heads to review respective budgets.
- All tipping fee invoices for October have been entered and will be issued shortly.
- Interest has been posted on tax accounts; arrears letters to be mailed shortly.
- Interest has been posted on outstanding water utility accounts; door knockers are being issued this week.
- Multiple requests for proposals, requests for quotations and tenders are either open, awarded, or currently being evaluated.

**(e) Morgan Murray, Department of Culture and Community Development (CCD)**

Major Projects and Initiatives Updates:

- Provincial announcement of a daycare/early learning centre in Inverness.
- Kicked off support program for provincial facility improvement applications for winter 2026 with over a dozen organizations signing up so far.
- Hosted 6 community sessions on public transportation.
- Whycocomagh Library fundraising campaign launched, nearly \$6,000 raised to-date.
- Healthcare – 5 year plan complete involving new recruitment, awards and career fairs.
- Working closely with CBLIP on a number of projects and providing supports to newcomers.
- Hosted 6 community transportation sessions and met with various other stakeholders.
- Submitting applications for funding to support youth retention projects.
- Supporting Cabot Trail 100th anniversary public engagement efforts.

- Issued letters in conjunction with neighbouring municipalities to encourage provincial participation in Inverness County Asylum Commemoration Project.
- Continuing support of Inverness Literacy Council's work and explore options for additional programming and administrative support.

**7. PRESENTATION: JIM MUSTARD; RAISING THE VILLAGES**

The Raising the Villages movement in Inverness County is a grassroots initiative aimed at making the region more family-friendly and supporting the early years of life. It involves collaboration among municipalities and First Nations communities to create welcoming environments for families with young children. The movement focuses on reducing social isolation, improving services, and reducing childhood poverty by understanding the needs of young families and enhance community support systems. The initiative also emphasizes reconciliation and the importance of cultural heritage in fostering a sense of belonging and community.

**8. PRESENTATION: MORGAN MURRAY; INVERNESS COUNTY ASYLUM COMMEMORATION PROJECT**

The Inverness County Asylum initially opened near Mabou in 1890. This institution housed residents from Inverness County, as well as neighboring municipalities. Over crowding necessitated the construction of a new facility on the same site. This facility was destroyed by fire in 1947. At least 450 residents died in the 57 years the facility operated. The estimated 110 not claimed by family were buried in unmarked graves on site. The commemoration of the former Inverness County Asylum and cemetery is a multi year initiative led by the Municipality of the County of Inverness in collaboration with neighboring municipalities, the province, families, historians, and disability advocates. The goal of the project is to restore dignity, preserve memory, and ensure long-term stewardship of the site.

**9. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION: Re-Nest Shed Project**

The Request of Council is \$1,790.00

*Recommendation to fund this request in full with funds coming from Regional CDC Funds.*

**10. BYLAW 65 – A BYLAW RESPECTING THE REPEAL OF BYLAW 50: BYLAW TO AMEND BYLAW 30: CAPITAL COST OF SEWER & WATER CONSTRUCTION**

**MOTION:** That Council agree to advance Bylaw 65- A Bylaw Respecting the Repeal of Bylaw 50: Bylaw to Amend By-Law 30: Capital Cost of Sewer & Water

Construction to Second Reading at the next Regular Meeting of Council (December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025).

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

#### **11. CORRESPONDENCE**

- October Building Statistics from the Eastern District Planning Commission were provided to Council.

#### **12. JANUARY 2026 COUNCIL MEETING DATES**

January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – Regular Meeting of Council

January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 – Committee of the Whole

#### **13. NEXT MEETING DATE**

December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 9:30 am; Regular Meeting of Council

#### **14. “IN CAMERA”**

**MOTION:** *That Council move to “In Camera” at 11:36 am to discuss 2 land items*

**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Gillis

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:** *That Council move out of “In Camera” at 11:45 am.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Poirier

**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **15. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** *That Council adjourn at 11:46 am.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Phillips

**MOTION CARRIED**