

Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, November 13th, 2025
9:30 am
Council Chambers

MINUTES

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

Staff: Keith MacDonald, CAO
Melanie Beaton, Deputy 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 Communications Officer

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. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: *That the agenda be approved as presented.*
MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier
SECONDED BY: Deputy Warden Chisholm
MOTION CARRIED

3. 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 and read the enclosed message:

This week many of us attended Remembrance Day ceremonies. I want to take a moment to speak about Indigenous Veterans Day. Since 1994 it is recognized annually on November 8th in Canada. It commemorates the service and sacrifice of Indigenous veterans, while acknowledging historical injustices they faced.

- *Over 4,000 Indigenous Peoples served in WWI, with some communities sending every eligible man between 20-35 years old.*
- *In WWII, over 3,000 First Nations, Inuit, and Métis individuals served, with many using their skills in marksmanship, tracking, and terrain awareness.*
- *An estimated 12,000 Indigenous members served in the 20th century, with 500 making the ultimate sacrifice.*
- *Indigenous languages, like Cree, were used to encode military communications, protecting vital information.*

Indigenous veterans served with bravery and loyalty, yet faced inequities upon returning home, including denied benefits and land grants. This day honours their contributions and legacy, promoting recognition and reconciliation.

4. PROCLAMATION: COLTEN ELLIS

The following proclamation was read by Warden MacIsaac:

WHEREAS, Colten Ellis, a native of River Denys, Cape Breton, made his first-ever career start in the National Hockey League (NHL), marking a momentous milestone both personally and for the entire County; and

WHEREAS, after 25 years of hard work, dedication, and perseverance, Colten Ellis realized his lifelong dream of playing in the NHL, achieving a victory in his debut and earning two points for his team; and

WHEREAS, his debut performance made history as he became the first goaltender from Cape Breton to play and win in the NHL, and only the eighth goaltender born in Nova Scotia to reach this level of achievement; and

WHEREAS, the entire County of Inverness and communities across Cape Breton rallied behind him, celebrating not only his success but also the inspiration he brings to young athletes to follow their dreams; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable accomplishment has brought pride and recognition to the Municipality of Inverness County and the Province of Nova Scotia;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Municipality of Inverness County hereby congratulates and honours Colten Ellis for his historic NHL debut and win and expresses heartfelt appreciation for the positive example he has set through perseverance, passion, and community spirit.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: *That the Regular Council meeting minutes of October 2nd 2025 be approved as presented.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Phillips

SECONDED BY: Deputy Warden Chisholm

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: *That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of October 16th 2025 be approved as presented.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Phillips

SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier

MOTION CARRIED

6. PRESENTATION: MORGAN MURRAY, CABOT TRAIL 100th ANNIVERSARY PROJECT

October 2032 will mark the 100th Anniversary of Cape Breton's Cabot Trail. The route is contained within the counties of Victoria and Inverness and contains 298 km of highway most of which follow the rugged coastline with views of the ocean. Goals of the anniversary project include:

- Commemorate: Organize a year long series of events and activities that include collaboration with Mi'kmaw, Acadian, and Gaelic cultures.
- Engage: Encourage local communities along the trail to help plan and organize activities.
- Preserve and Enhance: Increase tourism to the region via international promotion.
- Project Management: Manage the project to effectively meet these goals and have a positive impact on stakeholders and rights holders.

7. RECOMMENDATION FROM OCTOBER 16th COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

I. District 3: Captain Angus L MacDonald Branch 132 Royal Canadian Legion (Generator Updates)

MOTION: *That Council grant this \$1845.65 request in full with funds coming from District 3 CDC funds.*

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Chisholm

SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips

MOTION CARRIED

8. PUBLIC INPUT AND SECOND READING: BYLAW 60 – REPEAL OF BYLAW 20, TRAILERS BYLAW

Warden MacIsaac asked if there were any oral or written submissions regarding the repeal of Bylaw 60 – Repeal of Bylaw 20, Trailers Bylaw. None were received.

MOTION: *That Bylaw 60 - A Bylaw Respecting the Repeal of Bylaw 20 – Trailers be adopted today by Council.*

MOVED BY: *Councillor Gillis*

SECONDED BY: *Councillor Poirier*

MOTION CARRIED

9. PUBLIC INPUT AND SECOND READING: BYLAW 61 – REPEAL OF BYLAW 21, TRAILER COURTS BYLAW

Warden MacIsaac asked if there were any oral or written submissions regarding the repeal of Bylaw 61 – Repeal of Bylaw 21, Trailer Courts Bylaw. None were received.

MOTION: *That Bylaw 61 - A Bylaw Respecting the Repeal of Bylaw 21 – Trailer Courts be adopted today by Council.*

MOVED BY: *Deputy Warden Chisholm*

SECONDED BY: *Councillor Phillips*

MOTION CARRIED

10. PUBLIC INPUT AND SECOND READING: BYLAW 62 – REPEAL OF BYLAW 24, DEVELOPMENT OFFICER BYLAW

Warden MacIsaac asked if there were any oral or written submissions regarding the repeal of Bylaw 62 – Repeal of Bylaw 24, Development Officer Bylaw. None were received.

MOTION: *That Bylaw 62 - A Bylaw Respecting the Repeal of Bylaw 24 –Development Officer be adopted today by Council.*

MOVED BY: *Councillor Poirier*

SECONDED BY: *Councillor Phillips*

MOTION CARRIED

11. PUBLIC INPUT AND SECOND READING: BYLAW 63 – REPEAL OF BYLAW 40, RESPECTING RELIEF FROM LIABILITY BYLAW

Warden MacIsaac asked if there were any oral or written submissions regarding the repeal of Bylaw 63 – Repeal of Bylaw 40, Respecting Relief from Liability Bylaw. None were received.

MOTION: *That Bylaw 63 - A Bylaw Respecting the Repeal of Bylaw 40 –Respecting Relief from Liability be adopted today by Council.*

MOVED BY: *Councillor Phillips*

SECONDED BY: *Councillor Poirier*

MOTION CARRIED

12. PUBLIC INPUT AND SECOND READING: BYLAW 64 – REPEAL OF BYLAW 36, PENSIONS BYLAW

Warden MacIsaac asked if there were any oral or written submissions regarding the repeal of Bylaw 64 – Repeal of Bylaw 36, Pensions Bylaw. No written submissions were received. The following oral submission was made by Port Hood resident Marc Currie:

I hope that the following suggestion could be of use to current and future councillors. Instead of completely repealing the Pension Bylaw, replacing the wording with a requirement that a councillor may ask for, and if asking shall receive reasonable access to, or copies of all current pension related policies, practices, aggregate financial data, names of the corporations and/or individuals investing the pension funds, etc. In other words, all the information needed to full understand the current pension costs and future liabilities that the pension policies will have on the Municipality of the County of Inverness

One of the reasons that I make this suggestion is that in the news announcement of the Bylaw modernization it was stated that “current pension arrangements are now covered under updated human resources and personnel policies. When I looked on the policies webpage of the Municipality of the County of Inverness, I could not find any listed policy that was labelled “human resources and personnel policies”. Such policies appear to be blocked to the public and I wish to ensure that these policies are not blocked to current and future councillors. Future councillors in particular will need to have this option to bring them “up to speed” on this “expenditure item”.

Section 45 of the Municipal Government Act has required all municipalities to arrange for pension through a policy. Compliance with this provincial requirement seems to have been fulfilled, and as such, a rapid decision on the recommendation to repeal Bylaw 36 may not be the best long term choice. I urge Council to take time to consider how the Pensions Bylaw could be modified to the benefit of Inverness County.

I am not opposed to the repeal of this bylaw.

Marc Currie

The comments provided by Marc Currie will be taken into consideration and this item shall be brought back to a future meeting of Council.

13. PUBLIC REQUEST TO PRESENT TO COUNCIL

In an effort to streamline Council presentations, a new form and guidelines document are being introduced.

- The **Public Request to Present to Council** is a form available in hard copy and online, for those requesting to appear as a delegation or presenter at a Council meeting.
- The **Guidelines for anyone presenting to Council** will be sent to any presenters in advance of any presentation to ensure presenters are prepared and presentations are properly formatted.

14. INTEREST RELIEF (SCOTT MACDONALD)

District 4 resident Scott MacDonald issued a request to the municipality for relief of interest on his property tax account (AAN # 05075548) in the amount of \$203.30.

MOTION: *That the request for interest relief made by Scott MacDonald on AAN # 05075548 in the amount of \$203.30 be denied.*
MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis
SECONDED BY: Deputy Warden Chisholm
MOTION CARRIED

15. DOCUMENT DISPOSAL

MOTION: *To advance the disposal of the 100 file boxes as listed for destruction in today's Council package.*
MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis
SECONDED BY: Deputy Warden Chisholm
MOTION CARRIED

16. INVERNESS MULTICOURT BOOKING POLICY

MOTION: *That Council approve the Inverness Multicourt Booking Policy as included in today's Council package*
MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis
SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier
MOTION CARRIED

17. WHYCCOMAGH LIBRARY UPDATE

The new Whycocomagh community library will be located on the lower level of the Whycocomagh Waterfront Centre, 9650 Hwy 105. This initiative is a partnership between the Municipality of the County of Inverness, the Whycocomagh Waterfront Centre, Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL) and community volunteers. Shelving is currently being set up in the building interior and the Centre is planning for an accessible ramp. Staff recruitment and book distribution are to follow in the near future. To date the community fundraiser has raised \$6,000.00 of the \$10,000.00 goal. An opening date will be announced in the near future.

18. MARGAREE AIRSTRIP REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS UPDATE

The Municipality of the County of Inverness has declared the Margaree Airstrip, located at 604 Big Intervale Road in Margaree Valley, NS, available for leasing opportunities and has issued a "Request for Proposals" for the lease and use of the lands. The deadline for submissions is January 21, 2026.

19. NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice was provided to Council that during upcoming meetings the following policies 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. Public Appointment Policy (as per the policy, it is to be reviewed every 4 years)
- II. Remuneration Policy (as per the policy, it is to be reviewed every 4 years)

20. CORRESPONDENCE

- Correspondence was received from the Board of Directors of the Mabou Farmer's Market extending gratitude to municipal council and staff for their ongoing support of the market.

21. NEXT MEETING DATE

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

22. IN CAMERA

MOTION: *That Council move to "In Camera" at 10:42 am to discuss land items and a Human Resources item.*

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Chisholm

SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips

MOTION CARRIED

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

MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier

SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: *That the Municipality does not declare any portion of the municipality owned property identified as PID # 50201888 as surplus.*

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Chisholm

SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: *That the Municipality does not wave any interest owing on Capital Account # 02971496.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis

SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips

MOTION CARRIED

23. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *That Council adjourn at 11:47 am*
MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis
MOTION CARRIED