

Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, June 11, 2026
9:30 a.m.
Council Chambers

MINUTES

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

Staff: Melanie Beaton, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Erin Gillis, Chief Operations Officer
Morgan Murray, Director of Culture and Community Development
Christina MacDonell, Director of Finance
Debbie Nicholson, Administrative Assistant to Council/Chief Administrative Officer
Megan Wludyka, Chief Communications Officer
Siobhan Beaton, Communications and Digital Marketing Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Warden MacIsaac called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed all in attendance. Roll call was taken.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

4. PROCLAMATIONS:

i. Pride Month 2026

The following proclamation was read by Warden MacIsaac:

***WHEREAS,** June is recognized as Pride Month in Nova Scotia, a time to celebrate the diversity, resilience, and contributions of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, while continuing efforts to advance awareness, inclusion, equity, and human rights; and*

***WHEREAS,** the Government of Nova Scotia, through the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act and the Dismantling Hate and Racism Act, prohibits discrimination and supports the protection of human rights for all people; and*

***WHEREAS,** the Municipality of the County of Inverness recognizes that all individuals deserve to live with dignity, safety, respect, and belonging regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression; and*

***WHEREAS,** Pride Month creates opportunities to foster understanding, encourage acceptance, and support spaces where people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities can live openly and authentically; and*

***WHEREAS,** the Municipality of the County of Inverness is committed to building welcoming and inclusive communities that celebrate diversity and promote equity, accessibility, and mutual respect; and*

***WHEREAS,** the Municipality acknowledges and celebrates the important social, cultural, civic, and economic contributions of Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, and additional sexually and gender diverse individuals within our communities and throughout Nova Scotia;*

***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT I,** Bonny MacIsaac, Warden of the Municipality of the County of Inverness, do hereby proclaim June 2026 as “Pride Month” in the Municipality of the County of Inverness and encourage all residents to recognize and celebrate the value of diversity, inclusion, and belonging within our communities.*

ii. **National Indigenous History Month**

***WHEREAS** Inverness County is located on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People; and*

***WHEREAS** National Indigenous History Month takes place across Canada from June 1 to 30 each year; and*

***WHEREAS** it is a time to recognize and honour the histories, cultures, contributions, and resilience of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis peoples across Canada for Canadians to deepen their understanding of reconciliation; and*

WHEREAS the Municipality of the County of Inverness is committed to fostering respectful relationships with Mi'kmaw communities and advancing meaningful reconciliation through recognition of Mi'kmaw history, culture, and connection to this land;

THEREFORE I, Warden Bonny MacIsaac, on behalf of the Council of the Municipality of the County of Inverness, do hereby proclaim June 2026 as National Indigenous History Month in Inverness County.

5. RECOGNITION

Warden MacIsaac extended congratulations to Aaron MacDonald on his recent East Coast Music Award. Aaron won the 2026 Award for Video of the Year for “Beaches & Bands.”

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: *That the Regular Council meeting minutes of May 7, 2026, be approved as presented.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Phillips

SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: *That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of May 21, 2026, be approved as presented.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis

SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips

MOTION CARRIED

7. PRESENTATION: DONNA STEELE, DR. JOHN WATERS COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

The Board of Directors of the Dr. John Waters Community Health Centre are planning to renovate and modernize the upper level of the facility. This renovation would:

- Make the building more energy efficient and comfortable for existing tenants.
- Allow for an additional 376 square feet of rentable space, an increase of 21 %.
- Create a new modern dental practice space to assist in attracting dental professionals to practice in the area. The recent retirement of Dr. Ojoleck has left many residents without options for dental care.

Tenants located within the facility include a pharmacy, hair salon, massage therapy and the offices of the Inverness County Home Support Society.

8. WHYCOCOMAGH LIBRARY GRAND OPENING UPDATE (Morgan Murray)

The Municipality of Inverness County, in partnership with the Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL) is pleased to announce that the Whycocomagh Public Library has opened its doors to the community.

Located in the lower level of the Whycocomagh Waterfront Centre (9650 Hwy 105), the new public library will integrate ECRL library services, visitor information, and municipal services and programming in a welcoming space.

A grand opening celebration for the facility will be held on Saturday June 27, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

9. 2026 BULKY GARBAGE PICKUP UPDATE (Crystal Jones)

The 2026 Bulky Collection Program was conducted from May 19 to May 29, 2026, with a small number of remaining items collected during the first week of June. The program collected an estimated 257.15 metric tonnes of material over 197 loads, representing an increase from 2025, when 202.93 metric tonnes were collected over 169 loads. The collection program was completed successfully through the collaboration of the contractor, Municipal Solid Waste Team, Communications and Engineering Departments, and the Kenloch Waste Management Facility staff.

10. RESOLUTIONS FROM MAY 21 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

i. Account Write Offs

Whereas the Municipality routinely evaluates the likelihood of collection on outstanding property tax, water and other accounts; and

Whereas through extensive collection efforts, the Municipality has been able to draw down the outstanding receivable balance to a current total of \$10,418.82 for tipping fees, mortgage administration charges, and NSF charges; and

Whereas the Municipality comprised a list of all outstanding accounts to be presented to Council for its consideration;

Therefore it be resolved that except for those account holders refusing to pay, Council deems the accounts to be uncollectable and approves the write off balances totalling \$9777.42 in miscellaneous receivables, \$5,664.93 in water utility receivables and \$69,804.07 in property tax receivable.

Resolution passed.

ii. File Boxes for Destruction

Whereas Municipal staff are in the process of reviewing municipal documents for significant historical value before the Municipality proceeds with the destruction of the documents; and

Whereas the documents reviewed to date have been coded and indexed based on the AMANS Records Management Manual in preparation for archiving or disposing of past records and have been reviewed for significant historical value; and

Whereas the documents reviewed to date primarily contain outdated financial information that has been deemed to have low historical value and are considered confidential under Nova Scotia statutes and therefore not accessible to the public or local heritage researchers;

Therefore be it resolved that Council approve the destruction of the records in boxes 101 - 165 that have been coded, indexed and determined to have low historical value and/or contain confidential information.

Resolution passed.

iii. Capital Budget Purchase: New Trailer

Whereas the municipal solid waste team requires two trailers to move an estimated 9,675 MT of material per year from waste management sites to receiving sites across the province; and

Whereas walking floor trailers are critical pieces of equipment used to transport large volumes of solid waste; and

Whereas the municipality currently has two walking floor trailers, but the 2006 MAC is at the end of its life and will be taken out of service in August 2026,

Therefore, be it resolved that Council approve the purchase of a replacement walking floor trailer at a cost of \$239,400.00 outside of the traditional budget approval process to ensure that there will be no disruption in the municipality's level of service and its ability to manage its solid waste.

Resolution passed.

11. POLICY: PREGNANCY AND PARENTAL LEAVE

MOTION: *That Council agree to adopt the Pregnancy and Parental Leave Policy with amendments effective today.*

Moved BY: Councillor Phillips

SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier

MOTION CARRIED

12. POLICY: RESPECTFUL WORKPLACE

MOTION: *That Council agree to adopt the Respectful Workplace Policy with amendments effective today.*
MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Chisholm
SECONDED BY: Councillor Gillis
MOTION CARRIED

13. POLICY: SPECIAL CONSTABLE AND BYLAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

MOTION: *That Council adopt the Special Constable and Bylaw Enforcement Officer Policy with amendments, and that the policy come into force and effect upon approval by the Minister of Justice, as per the Police Act.*
MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis
SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier
MOTION CARRIED

14. SECOND READING: PRIVATE FIRE HYDRANT BYLAW

MOTION: *That Council approve Bylaw Number 65 - Private Fire Hydrants as presented, effective today.*
MOVED BY: Councillor Phillips
SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier
MOTION CARRIED

15. RESOLUTION – J CLASS ROADS

MOTION: *That the Municipality participate in the cost sharing agreement on the Paving of Subdivision (J Class) Streets No. 2026-013 and that the Warden and CAO Keith MacDonald be authorized to sign Cost Share Agreement No. 2026-013.*
MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Chisholm
SECONDED BY: Councillor Philips
MOTION CARRIED

16. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION: NORTH MOUNTAIN CULTURAL AND RECREATION FACILITY (Community Centre Flooring)

MOTION: *That Council approve a total of \$4,500.00 towards this project (\$1,754.92 previously committed plus \$2,745.08) with funds coming from District 6 CDC funds.*
MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis
SECONDED BY: Deputy Warden Chisholm
MOTION CARRIED

17. 2026 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS

Council was provided with the graduation dates and times for schools within the municipality:

School	Date	Time
We'koqma'q First Nation School	Friday, June 19	4:00 p.m.
Dalbrae Academy	Friday, June 26	7:00 p.m.
CB Highlands Education Centre & Academy	Friday, June 26	7:00 p.m.
Inverness Education Centre & Academy	Friday, June 26	7:00 p.m.
SAERC	Monday, June 29	6:00 p.m.
l'école NDA de Chéticamp	Monday, June 29	7:00 p.m.

18. WHYCOCOMAGH BOIL WATER ORDER UPDATE (Melanie Beaton)

The boil water order continues for residents on the Whycocomagh water system. The water system is currently experiencing high turbidity, meaning the water has a slight discolouration. Leak detection efforts continue as well as potential locations for replacement wells. To support users of the Whycocomagh water system during the ongoing boil water advisory, the Municipality of Inverness County is once again partnering with the Whycocomagh Volunteer Fire Department to provide drinking water to impacted residents.

19. NEXT MEETING DATE

June 18, 2026, 9:30 a.m.: Committee of the Whole

20. "IN CAMERA"

MOTION: *That Council move to "In Camera" at 11:10 a.m. to discuss one land item and one contract item.*

MOVED BY: Councillor Phillips

SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: *That Council move out of "In Camera" at 11:42 a.m.*

MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Chisholm

SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: *That Council grant an easement/right-of-way over the land identified as PID 50049063, PID 50335181 and PID 50299494 to allow Janna Elizabeth MacDonald and Breanna Lane MacDonald access to their lands identified as PID 50299494 and PID 50049048 from Highway 19, Inverness County.*

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

21. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *That Council adjourn at 11:43 a.m.*
MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier
MOTION CARRIED