

**CAPE BRETON REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**  
*Council Meeting – Minutes*

**Tuesday,  
December 14, 2021  
6:06 p.m.  
Council Chambers  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Hall  
320 Esplanade Sydney, NS**

**Mayor Amanda M. McDougall called the meeting to order.**

**Council:** Mayor Amanda M. McDougall  
Councillor Gordon MacDonald  
Deputy Mayor Earlene MacMullin  
Councillor Cyril MacDonald  
Councillor Steve Gillespie  
Councillor Eldon MacDonald  
Councillor Glenn Paruch  
Councillor Steve Parsons  
Councillor James Edwards  
Councillor Ken Tracey  
Councillor Darren Bruckschwaiger  
Councillor Darren O’Quinn  
Councillor Lorne Green

**Staff:** Marie Walsh, Chief Administrative Officer  
Jennifer Campbell, Chief Financial Officer  
John MacKinnon, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Deborah Campbell Ryan, Municipal Clerk  
Demetri Kachafanas, QC, Regional Solicitor  
Wayne MacDonald, Director of Engineering & Public Works  
Michael Ruus, Director of Planning & Development  
Allan Clarke, Manager of Buildings and Parks  
Karen Neville, Senior Planner/Heritage Officer  
Mike Targett, Community Consultation Coordinator  
Sharon MacSween, Senior Administrative Assistant  
Tanya Nicholson, Recording Secretary

**Absent:** N/A

The Council met In Camera on November 22, 2021 and on November 25, 2021 pursuant to Section 22 (2) (d) and (e) of the *Municipal Government Act*.

### **Summary of Decisions**

#### **Land Acknowledgement**

##### **O' Canada**

##### **Roll Call**

#### **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion** to approve minutes from:

- **Special Council Meeting – October 26, 2021**

**Carried.**

**Motion** to approve minutes from:

- **Council Meeting – November 9, 2021**

**Carried.**

#### **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Motion** to approve the December 14, 2021 Council Agenda and Addendum as presented.

**Carried.**

#### **3. PROCLAMATIONS:**

##### **3.1 RETT Syndrome Awareness (for ratification):**

**Motion** that Mayor Amanda M. McDougall and CBRM Council hereby proclaim the month of October 2021 as RETT Syndrome Awareness Month to raise awareness within our community. **Carried.**

#### **ADDENDUM:**

##### **3.2 Salvation Army Week:**

**Motion** that Mayor Amanda M. McDougall and Council of the CBRM hereby support the efforts of The Salvation Army and proclaim the week of December 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 as The Salvation Army Week in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality and encourage all citizens and community members to join the army of givers by donating at a Christmas Kettle to support this campaign. **Carried.**

**Continued...**

**Summary of Decisions (Cont'd)**

**4. PRESENTATION:**

**4.1 Wolfpack Team Recognition:**

Councillor Cyril MacDonald recognized the achievements of Special Olympics Floor Hockey players Wolfpack Team.

**5. DELEGATION:**

**5.1 Munro Academy – Municipal Government Student Leadership Pilot Project Proposal:**

**Motion** to accept the proposal and facilitate a pilot “Student Municipal Leadership Experience” as presented. **Carried.**

**6. PLANNING ISSUES:**

**6.1 FINAL APPROVAL – PUBLIC HEARING:**

**a) Zoning Amendment Application – 1085: Harbourside Business Park Zone Sydney:**

**Motion** for final approval of application #1085 amending the zoning for the properties identified on Attachment A from Harbourside Business Park-1(HBZ-1) Zone to Harbourside Business Park-2 (HBZ-2) Zone as outlined in the staff report dated December 6, 2021. **Carried.**

**6.2 APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE: N/A**

**7. REPORTS:**

**7.1 Economic Development Update – CBRM REN:**

The Cape Breton Partnership provided an Economic Development Update on the CBRM REN.

**For information only.**

Continued...

**Summary of Decisions (Cont'd)**

**REPORTS (Cont'd):**

**7.2 “Vision to Action” – Report on Strategic Vision:**

It was *agreed* to have a workshop to review CBRM Strategic Vision points of interest, CBRM goals and strategies to prepare for the CBRM Budget/Strategic Vision Consultations that will be held at the end of January.

**8. BUSINESS ARISING:**

**8.1 Council – November 19, 2019 and General Committee – February 4, 2020:**

**a) Financing Water, Septic and Energy Efficiency Upgrades:**

**Motion** to reach out to the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing and ask for a discussion around options for water, septic, and energy efficiency upgrade financing programs. **Carried.**

**8.2 Council – July 6, 2021 and November 9, 2021:**

**a) CBRM Asset Naming:**

**Motion** that Council continues renaming municipal assets by resolution (motion) until a municipal asset naming policy is developed within the future Parks & Open Space Master Plan. **Carried.**

**8.3 Council – October 12, 2021:**

**a) Request to Relocate Memorial Plaque from Jail Field Playground to Atlantic Street Playground:**

**Motion** to direct staff to carry out the relocation of the memorial monument which will rename the Atlantic Street playground to David’s Playground. **Carried.**

**8.4 Council – November 9, 2021:**

**a) North Sydney Food Bank:**

**Motion** that CBRM contribute \$50,000 to the demolition of the old wing at Seton School which will reduce operating cost for the Food Bank (which CBRM covers) and that CBRM also has the potential to recoup this amount from the sale of the old property. **Carried.**

Continued...

**Summary of Decisions (Cont'd)**

**Business Arising (Cont'd):**

**8.5 Nominating Committee – November 17, 2021:**

**a) Citizen Vacancy on Accessibility Advisory Committee:**

**Motion** to approve the Nominating Committee recommendation that the vacant seat on the Accessibility Advisory Committee not be filled, leaving the composition of the Committee at nine (9) members. **Carried.**

**8.6 Heritage Advisory Committee – November 24, 2021:**

**a) Municipal Heritage Registration Requests:**

**i) Menelik Hall (88 Laurier Street, Whitney Pier):**

**Motion** to initiate the process for registering Menelik Hall (88 Laurier Street, Whitney Pier) as a Municipal Heritage Property. **Carried.**

**ii) The Cedars Club (30 MacKenzie Street, Sydney):**

**Motion** to initiate the process for registering the Cedars Club (30 MacKenzie Street, Sydney) as a Municipal Heritage Property. **Carried.**

**iii) 8399 Grand Narrows Highway, Christmas Island:**

**Motion** to initiate the process for registering 8399 Grand Narrows Highway, Christmas Island as a Municipal Heritage Property. **Carried.**

**9. CORPORATE SERVICES ISSUES:**

**9.1 Surplus Schools and Properties:**

**Motion** to declare Portage School (PID #15039860) as **surplus** to the needs of the Municipality. **Carried.**

Continued...

**Summary of Decisions (Cont'd)**

**10. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**10.1 Review of the Taxi Bylaw:**

Councillor Gillespie provided a report on the Committee reviewing the Taxi Bylaw.

**For Information Only.**

**11. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:**

**11.1 CBRM to October 31, 2021:**

**For Information Only.**

**11.2 Port of Sydney Development Corporation to October 31, 2021:**

**For Information Only.**

**12. Review of Action Items from the Meeting:**

Mayor McDougall reviewed action items from this meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Council met In Camera on November 22, 2021 and on November 25, 2021 pursuant to Section 22 (2) (d) and (e) of the *Municipal Government Act*.

### **Land Acknowledgement**

#### **O' Canada**

Mayor McDougall welcomed Councillor Darren Bruckschwaiger back to Council.

Councillor Bruckschwaiger thanked Staff, Councillor Ken Tracey, Mayor Amanda M. McDougall, Toni DeLorenzo, and Stacy Boutilier for all their help and assistance while he was on a leave of absence.

### **Roll Call**

Mayor McDougall noted that after Friday December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Council will be reverting to zoom meetings and potentially meetings at Centre 200, once approval is received from the Province.

## **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

#### **Motion:**

Moved by Councillor O'Quinn, seconded by Councillor Tracey, approval of the Minutes from:

- **Special Council Meeting – October 26, 2021**

**Motion Carried.**

#### **Motion:**

Moved by Councillor Parsons, seconded by Councillor Edwards, approval of the Minutes from:

- **Council Meeting – November 9, 2021**

**Motion Carried.**

## **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

#### **Motion:**

Moved by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor O'Quinn, to approve the December 14, 2021 Council Meeting Agenda and Addendum as presented.

**Motion Carried.**

**3. PROCLAMATIONS:**

**3.1 RETT Syndrome Awareness (for ratification):**

**Motion:**

Moved by Councillor O'Quinn, seconded by Councillor Tracey, that Mayor Amanda M. McDougall and CBRM Council hereby proclaim the month of October 2021 as RETT Syndrome Awareness Month to raise awareness within our community.

**Motion Carried.**

**ADDENDUM:**

**3.2 Salvation Army Week:**

**Motion:**

Moved by Councillor Bruckschwaiger, seconded by Councillor Paruch, that Mayor Amanda M. McDougall and Council of the CBRM hereby support the efforts of The Salvation Army and proclaim the week of December 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 as The Salvation Army Week in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality and encourage all citizens and community members to join the army of givers by donating at a Christmas Kettle to support this campaign.

**Motion Carried.**

**4. PRESENTATION:**

**4.1 Wolfpack Team Recognition:**

Councillor Cyril MacDonald provided a presentation recognizing the achievements of Special Olympics Floor Hockey players Wolfpack Team highlighting:

- The team was selected to compete on the National stage in Thunder Bay, Ontario
- Won Gold medal at Provincials to qualify for National games
- Only mixed team at the games consisting of males and females
- Wolfpack Team was named "Team of the Year" for 2020 Special Olympics Nova Scotia and recognized at the annual Special Olympics Gala.

Councillor Cyril MacDonald noted with the new COVID-19 restrictions, he and Mayor McDougall will present a plaque to the team at a later date.

**5. DELEGATION:**

**5.1 Munro Academy – Municipal Government Student Leadership Pilot Project Proposal:**

Munro Academy Students Naomi Barrett and Sarwat Naeem provided a presentation for a *Municipal Government Student Leadership Pilot Project Proposal* highlighting the following:

- About Us
- Small Class Sizes
- International Students
- Christian Worldview
- Project Goal
- Envisioned Approach
- Suggested Process

Following the presentation, Deputy Mayor MacMullin and Councillor Parsons volunteered for the shadowing experience with the students. The following motion was then put forward:

**Motion:**

Moved by Deputy Mayor MacMullin, seconded by Councillor Gordon MacDonald, to accept the proposal and facilitate a pilot “Student Municipal Leadership Experience” as presented.

**Motion Carried.**

Mayor McDougall thanked the students for their presentation and noted she would be in contact with Principal Beane to help facilitate the Student Municipal Leadership Experience.

**6. PLANNING ISSUES:**

**6.1 FINAL APPROVAL – PUBLIC HEARING:**

**b) Zoning Amendment Application – 1085: Harbourside Business Park Zone Sydney:**

Karen Neville, Senior Planner, provided background information on this issue and noted that at the time the report was prepared, no written comments were received by the Planning and Development Department.

Continued...

**FINAL APPROVAL – PUBLIC HEARING: Zoning Amendment Application – 1085: Harbourside Business Park Zone Sydney (Cont'd):**

**Motion:**

Moved by Councillor Paruch, seconded by Councillor Parsons, final approval of application #1085 amending the zoning for the properties identified on Attachment A from Harbourside Business Park-1(HBZ-1) Zone to Harbourside Business Park-2 (HBZ-2) Zone as outlined in the staff report dated December 6, 2021.

**Public Hearing:**

The Mayor asked if there was anyone present to speak for or against the amendments, seeing that there was no one, Mayor McDougall then called for the vote

**Motion Carried.**

**6.2 APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE: N/A**

**7. REPORTS:**

**7.1 Economic Development Update – CBRM REN:**

Tyler Mattheis, Acting President and CEO of the Cape Breton Partnership, thanked Council for the opportunity to provide the Economic Development Update for the CBRM REN and introduced the members of his team in attendance to assist with the presentation:

- Mickey Freeman, CBRM Business Development Officer
- Lan Zheng, CBRM Business Growth Advisor
- Kelly MacKinnon, Labour Market and Immigration Advisor / Immigration Consultant
- Jessica MacDonald, Human Resources Consultant
- Ayha El-Darahali, Cape Breton Connector Program Coordinator

Their presentation highlighted the following:

- CBRM's Dedicated Economic Development Team
- Cape Breton Partnership: Vision, Promote, Grow and Connect
- Regional Enterprise Networks
- 2021 CBRM REN Board of Directors
- 2021 Cape Breton Partnership Board of Directors
- Promoting, Growing and Connecting Business in CBRM
- Supporting CBRM Businesses in 2021
- Attracting New Business and Investment
- Economic Development Projects

**Continued...**

**REPORTS – Economic Development Update – CBRM REN (Cont'd):**

- Supporting the Creative Economy
- Economic Development Plan
- Human Resources and Immigration Support
- The Role of Post-Secondary Institutions
- Human Resources & Immigration Support
- Settlement, Integration and Inclusion

Following the update, Council discussed the following:

- Breakdown of urban to rural startups and exploring entrepreneurs
- Lists of businesses seeking to locate, buy or sell a business in the CBRM
- Concentration on HR and Immigration
- Connector Program
- [WelcometoCapeBreton.ca](http://WelcometoCapeBreton.ca) website
- QR codes
- Atlantic Immigration Pilot Program – can CBRM become a designated employer?

Mayor McDougall thanked the Cape Breton Partnership for their presentation.

**For information only.**

**7.2 “Vision to Action” – Report on Strategic Vision:**

Mike Targett, Community Consultation Coordinator, provided a report on Strategic Vision – “Vision to Action” highlighting the following:

- Vision, Mission and Values
- Strategic Vision Priorities:
  - Economic Development – priorities identified by Dillon Consulting through CBRM Forward:
    1. Affordable Housing
    2. Employment
    3. Public Transit
    4. Addictions & Mental Health
    5. Environment
    6. Downtown Revitalization
    7. Family-Orientated Recreation
    8. CBRM’s Brand
  - CBRM Charter
  - Development of Harbours
  - Population Growth & Inclusivity
  - Municipal Revenue Streams

**Continued...**

**REPORTS: “Vision to Action” – Report on Strategic Vision (Cont’d):**

- Steps on how to get from strategic vision to an action plan:
  1. Survey - Engagement and trust
  2. Meet with staff individually or in small groups
  3. Meet with community organizations that are already working on these issues
  4. From consultations, produce a workbook or agenda that will be a synthesis of brainstorming sessions
  5. Hold a workshop with Council, staff and community organizations to review how to collectively and collaboratively reach goals outlined in the strategic vision
  6. Execute the plan
  7. Communicate the plan and progress

Mr. Targett advised that the plan has been designed to encompass the expertise of staff, expertise of community organizations, input from the broader community, leadership and decision making from Council, combined to achieve common community goals. The plan will accomplish the key learnings and next step recommendations from the initial draft report including:

- Give CBRM residents a mechanism for holding CBRM accountable to the actions laid out in the Strategic Vision.
- Create open channels of communication regarding progress.
- Gather residents’ ideas and feedback.
- The strategic vision should be a living document, and progress be monitored and adjustments be made in the process.
- Create a mechanism for implementing the actions outlined in the Vision and assign a staff person as lead.
- Mayor, Council and staff should be united in the creation of the Strategic Vision and their desire for positive change in the CBRM, and should use the Strategic Vision, and the priorities set within, to leverage partner funding and support.
- Add a review of the Strategic Vision to the Council agenda for every quarter to assess progress.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Targett for his report and advised that if Council wants to endorse this project and reach out to the communities, Council direction is required.

Following the report, Council discussed the following:

- Feedback from Mayor, Staff, and consultants that facilitated the development of the Strategic Vision.
- Housing is a Provincial responsibility and was never a Municipal Government responsibility.
- During the CBRM Forward exercise, it was recognized that some residents felt that they were over-consulted but under-listened.
- Focus on the goals that can be dealt with now and then look at the long term.
- Strategic vision is a system for engaging the community and as soon as possible, have a workshop with the REN and staff to identify goals.

**Continued...**

**REPORTS – “Vision to Action” – Report on Strategic Vision (Cont’d):**

- More than half of the points in Economic Development are not Municipal responsibilities.
- Assigning staff or councillor as a leader on a Vision taskforce.
- Strike an ad hoc committee of Council to work with the Community Consultation Coordinator and a staff member to implement the Strategic Vision.
- Community consultation to take place during Community Budget consultations.
- Most municipalities cannot afford new enabling legislations (i.e., housing).
- Concerns of creating a strategic vision for something that is not a municipal responsibility
- Keep an open mind and remember what Council has the ability to influence
- New fees for new and existing services

At this point in the discussion, Mayor McDougall noted that all the priorities that were listed on Page 51 in the agenda package came from the Strategic Vision exercise.

Mr. Wayne MacDonald, Director of Engineering & Public Works, advised there are numerous options for disposal of waste from the ships that enter the Port. Discussion took place on waste energy and how to transport and dispose of waste efficiently.

Council then discussed the following:

- To first have a workshop to bring the action items forward that can be completed in a short time period
- Public consultation survey to seek input on what should be prioritized

It was *agreed* to have a workshop to review CBRM Strategic Vision points of interest, CBRM goals and strategies to prepare for the CBRM Budget/Strategic Vision Consultations that will be held at the end of January.

**8. BUSINESS ARISING:**

**8.1 Council – November 19, 2019 and General Committee – February 4, 2020:**

**a) Financing Water, Septic and Energy Efficiency Upgrades:**

Jennifer Campbell, Chief Financial Officer, provided background information on this issue and noted that based on CBRM’s experience with the tax financing program, feedback from other municipal units, and considering CBRM’s continued high risk assessment respecting uncollected taxes, staff recommend against establishing a bylaw to provide financing for Water, Septic, and Energy Efficiency Upgrades at this time.

**Continued...**

**BUSINESS ARISING – Financing Water, Septic and Energy Efficiency Upgrades (Cont'd):**

Council discussed the following:

- Update on outstanding receivables
- Other municipalities experiences with PACE program
- Emergency grants available for low-income families

**Motion:**

Moved by Councillor Bruckschwaiger, seconded by Councillor Parsons, to reach out to the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing and ask for a discussion around options for water, septic, and energy efficiency upgrade financing programs.

**Motion Carried.**

**8.2 Council – July 6, 2021 and November 9, 2021:**

**a) CBRM Asset Naming:**

Michael Ruus, Director of Planning and Development reviewed his report included in the agenda package regarding the issue of naming municipal parks, facilities and other assets, together with various options for Council consideration.

**Motion:**

Moved by Deputy Mayor MacMullin, seconded by Councillor Green, that Council continues renaming municipal assets by resolution (motion) until a municipal asset naming policy is developed within the future Parks & Open Space Master Plan.

*Discussion:*

Timeline for submission of renaming resolution requests would be same as agenda item request process.

**Motion Carried.**

**8.3 Council – October 12, 2021:**

**a) Request to Relocate Memorial Plaque from Jail Field Playground to Atlantic Street Playground:**

Allan Clarke, Manager of Buildings and Parks, provided background information on this issue.

Continued....

**BUSINESS ARISING – Request to Relocate Memorial Plaque from Jail Field Playground to Atlantic Street Playground (Cont'd):**

**Motion:**

Moved by Councillor Paruch, seconded by Councillor Green, to direct staff to carry out the relocation of the memorial monument which will rename the Atlantic Street playground to David's Playground.

**Discussion:**

- No requirement for a resolution; a motion is sufficient
- Public consultation
- Naming the playground does not change the name of the Atlantic Street field
- Current David's Playground will have repairs carried out in the spring to make it safe until the decision is made regarding the future of that playground
- A Park in Glace Bay was renamed, and public consultation did not take place
- Phase 1 is to move the plaque; phase 2 is to upgrade playground

**Motion Carried.**

Council **agreed** to continue the Council meeting beyond 9:00 p.m.

**8.4 Council – November 9, 2021:**

**a) North Sydney Food Bank:**

Marie Walsh, Chief Administrative Officer, provided background information on this issue.

**Motion:**

Moved by Deputy Mayor MacMullin, seconded by Councillor Paruch, that CBRM contribute \$50,000 to the demolition of the old wing at Seton School which will reduce operating cost for the Food Bank (which CBRM covers) and that CBRM also has the potential to recoup this amount from the sale of the old property.

**Discussion:**

- \$25,000 of this could be funded from sustainability program as a capital contribution and the remaining \$25,000 could be funded from surplus.
- Similar process was done with the Town Hall in Louisbourg where the proceeds from the sale went back into the community
- Evaluate each proposition on its own merit
- The demolition will save CBRM money and attract investment with the road work and the commercial tax base

**Continued...**

**BUSINESS ARISING – Council – November 9, 2021: North Sydney Food Bank (Cont'd):**

**Motion Cont'd:**

At this point in the discussion, Jennifer Campbell, Chief Financial Officer, advised that the North Sydney Food Bank applied for a Municipal Grant this year and received \$20,000 toward kitchen upgrades, and if they wanted to apply for another grant this year, it would require Council's approval because it puts the grant to the one organization over the threshold within the policy. A motion of Council is warranted in this case to give them permission to apply and for the Municipal Grants Committee to consider their application.

- Within 90 days of the fiscal year end, all approved Municipal Grants are published on the CBRM webpage
- \$90,000 used for roadwork upgrade would be funded from capital budget

**Motion Carried.**

**8.5 Nominating Committee – November 17, 2021:**

**a) Citizen Vacancy on Accessibility Advisory Committee:**

Deborah Campbell Ryan, Municipal Clerk, provided background information on this issue and noted that in terms of a replacement for the citizen vacancy, on the Accessibility Advisory Committee can operate with nine (9) members and still be in compliance with the Terms of Reference for the Accessibility Advisory Committee and the *Accessibility Act*.

**Motion:**

Moved by Councillor Cyril MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Green, to approve the Nominating Committee recommendation that the vacant seat on the Accessibility Advisory Committee not be filled, leaving the composition of the Committee at nine (9) members.

**Motion Carried.**

**8.6 Heritage Advisory Committee – November 24, 2021:**

**a) Municipal Heritage Registration Requests:**

Karen Neville, Senior Planner / Heritage Officer, provided background information on the following requests for Municipal Heritage Registrations, noting that Menelik Hall is being considered for its cultural significance and not its architectural design.

**i) Menelik Hall (88 Laurier Street, Whitney Pier):**

**Motion:**

Moved by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor O'Quinn, to initiate the process for registering Menelik Hall (88 Laurier Street, Whitney Pier) as a Municipal Heritage Property.

**Motion Carried.**

Continued...

**BUSINESS ARISING – Municipal Heritage Registration Requests (Cont'd):**

- ii) The Cedars Club (30 MacKenzie Street, Sydney):

**Motion:**

Moved by Councillor Paruch, seconded by Councillor Eldon MacDonald, to initiate the process for registering the Cedars Club (30 MacKenzie Street, Sydney) as a Municipal Heritage Property.

**Motion Carried.**

- iii) 8399 Grand Narrows Highway, Christmas Island:

**Motion:**

Moved by Councillor Cyril MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Paruch, to initiate the process for registering 8399 Grand Narrows Highway, Christmas Island as a Municipal Heritage Property.

*Discussion*

- Deregistering versus demolition process of a Heritage Property

**Motion Carried.**

**9. CORPORATE SERVICES ISSUES:**

**9.1 Surplus Schools and Properties:**

Allan Clarke, Manager of Buildings and Parks, advised that in 1982, the Municipality of the County of Cape Breton, City of Sydney, Town of Glace Bay, Town of New Waterford, Town of Dominion, Town of Louisbourg and the Minister of Education for the Province of Nova Scotia entered into an Interim District School Agreement. As a result of this Agreement, the Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM) retains schools closed by Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board (the Board) in those former municipal units. The staff report outlines the schools that have already been approved as surplus by Council, noting that Portage School is the only school remaining to be dealt with by Council.

Staff is requesting that Portage School be declared surplus to the needs of the Municipality.

**Motion:**

Moved by Councillor Parsons, seconded by Councillor Eldon MacDonald, to declare Portage School (PID #15039860) as **surplus** to the needs of the Municipality.

**Motion Carried.**

**10. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**10.1 Review of the Taxi Bylaw:**

Councillor Steve Gillespie provided a report on the Committee reviewing the Taxi Bylaw, highlighting the following:

- To date the committee had three meetings.
- The first meeting was held in September and it was designed to introduce the committee members, present the current bylaw and to seek input from the Committee members on possible changes and what CBRM can do to help facilitate improved taxi service for CBRM.
- The second meeting was held in October which included more discussion many topics.
- A third meeting was held in November with the taxi owners to gather input, opinions, and information from the owners themselves. Taxi owners expressed their concerns regarding misinformation on the Committee's role and provided input into what could be a very good new and progressive Taxi bylaw.

Topics of conversation with taxi owners included:

- Rising insurance rates
  - Need for changes - passenger rates
  - Changing taxi zones
  - Inspections
  - Safety concerns
  - Communications
  - Creating a taxi app
  - The owners creating an association to work with the CBRM
- The aim of this Committee is to have recommendations from the taxi industry, drivers, and the public to bring to Council within a six-month period (from September).

Following the report, Council discussion included:

- Two committee members are taxi company owners
- All available taxi company owners participated in the November meeting
- Committee discussion is public information
- Uber and petty cab service in CBRM

Mayor McDougall thanked Councillor Gillespie and noted the importance of Committee Reports.

**For information only.**

**11. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:**

**11.1 CBRM to October 31, 2021:**

Council discussion included:

- Decrease in transit revenue due to reduced student ridership
- Extraordinary revenue – safe restart program in CBRM
- Central Division Engineering – infrastructure issues
- Equalization grant allocation over 12 months

**For information only.**

**11.2 Port of Sydney Development Corporation to October 31, 2021:**

Council discussed the following:

- Professional fees
- Mi'kmaq flag for the Council Chambers

**For information only.**

**12. Review of Action Items from the Meeting:**

At the conclusion of the Council meeting, Mayor McDougall advised that the following items would be addressed:

1. Follow up on the Atlantic Immigration Pilot to inquire about CBRM becoming a designated employer.
2. Workshop to review CBRM Strategic Vision points of interest, CBRM goals and strategies to prepare for the CBRM Budget/Strategic Vision Consultations that will be held at the end of January.
3. Request to the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing to discuss Provincial capacity to help CBRM with financing projects in regard to the PACE program, water, septic, and energy efficiency Upgrades.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.**

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Mayor Amanda M. McDougall

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Deborah Campbell Ryan  
Municipal Clerk  
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