

**CAPE BRETON REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**  
**Special Council Meeting – Minutes**  
**BUDGET SESSION 2021-22**

**Tuesday,**  
**April 27, 2021**  
**9:32 a.m.**

**Via Video Conference**

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

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

<b>Staff:</b>	Marie Walsh	Kathy Donovan
	Jennifer Campbell	Robert Nearing
	Deborah Campbell Ryan	Francis Campbell
	Demetri Kachafanas	Ray Boudreau
	Wayne MacDonald	Gilbert MacIntyre
	Michael Ruus	Chris March
	John MacKinnon	Matthew Viva
	Deanna Evely	Bruce Hardy
	Robert Walsh	Sean MacLellan
	Michael Seth	Dana Milley
	Bill Murphy	Jennifer Collins
	Michael Seth	Adam MacNeil
	Kirk Durning	Kirk MacNeil
	Paul MacDonald	Karen Neville
	John Phalen	Sharon MacSween
	Greg Penney	Angela Ross

**Absent:** N/A

**Summary of Decisions**

Council **agreed** to relax the speaking rules for the meeting.

**1. Approval of the Agenda:**

**Motion** to approve the April 27, 2021 Special Council Agenda as circulated. **Carried.**

**2. DRAFT Capital Budget 2021-2022:**

**Motion** to approve the Capital Budget for 2021/22 as presented totaling \$50,585,868.  
**Carried.**

**Motion** that staff be directed to prepare an Issue Paper regarding an overall review of J Class Roads and the time to construct the same, and further, to approach the Provincial Government to have discussions regarding same.

**Carried.**

**Motion** to approve the associated required borrowing resolutions for the Capital Budget in the amount of \$8,790,267.

**Carried.**

**Motion** to approve the transfer from operating reserve in the amount of \$400,000 for the Police Headquarters backup generator.

**Carried.**

**Motion** to approve the transfer from capital reserve in the amount of \$114,800.

**Carried.**

**3. BUSINESS ARISING:**

**3.1 Council – April 20, 2021**

**a) Outstanding Loan Forgiveness – Emera North Sydney**

**Motion** that CBRM forgive the receivable owed by the Northside Community Civic Center Society for a total of \$172,457.40 and deem the Society eligible to apply for the Municipal Grants Program on a go-forward basis. **Carried.**

*Council recessed for the day at 4:07 p.m.*

## **Roll Call**

Council **agreed** to relax the speaking rules for the meeting to allow Council to speak open ended with a 5 minute limit.

### **1. Approval of the Agenda:**

#### **Motion:**

Moved by Councillor Bruckschwaiger, seconded by Deputy Mayor MacMullin, to approve the April 27, 2021 Special Council Agenda as circulated.

**Motion Carried.**

### **2. DRAFT Capital Budget 2021-2022**

Wayne MacDonald, Director of Engineering & Public Works, provided a presentation and overview of the Draft Capital Budget for 2021-2022.

Council discussion included the following items:

- Councillors expressed concern for roads and rehabilitation of the same in their respective districts
- Collector Roads paving
- Programs and advocacy for funding to assist with infrastructure funding deficit
- Paving for J Class Roads
- Gas tax funds
- Sidewalks
- Municipal Grant capacity
- Issues with the Dept. of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal
- Green technology generator for Police Headquarters
- Street lights
- Wentworth Park Splash Pad
- Bus shelters
- Condition of the Lyceum Building
- Port Morien Fire Department

*Council recessed for Lunch at 12:00 p.m.*

*Council resumed at 1:06pm*

Mayor McDougall welcomed everyone back to the afternoon session and advised that the meeting will end in time for the provincial COVID update.

**Continued...**

**DRAFT Capital Budget 2021-2022 (Cont'd):**

Council discussion on the draft Capital Budget continued, noting the following items that were highlighted:

- The constant need to update Provincial Ministers as the individuals in these roles change
- Suggested public campaign with all municipalities for a province-wide initiative calling on the Provincial government for funding and responsibility for roads and infrastructure
- Viability Study
- Centre 200 revitalization
- Green and Inclusive Fund
- Fire Service Vehicles

*Deputy Mayor MacMullin assumed the Chair.*

*Mayor McDougall resumed the Chair.*

After Council discussion, the following motions were put forward:

**Motion:**

Moved by Councillor Bruckschwaiger, seconded by Deputy Mayor MacMullin, to approve the Capital Budget for 2021/22 as presented totaling \$50,585,868.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion:**

Moved by Councillor Parsons, seconded by Councillor Cyril MacDonald, that staff be directed to prepare an Issue Paper regarding an overall review of J Class Roads and the time to construct the same, and further, to approach the Provincial Government to have discussions regarding same.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion:**

Moved by Councillor Bruckschwaiger, seconded by Councillor Edwards, to approve the associated required borrowing resolutions for the Capital Budget in the amount of \$8,790,267.

**Discussion:**

In response to a question, the Chief Financial Officer confirmed that this borrowing is within Policy and explained same.

**Motion Carried.**

**Continued...**

**DRAFT Capital Budget 2021-2022 (Cont'd):**

**Motion:**

Moved by Councillor Parsons, seconded by Councillor O'Quinn, to approve the transfer from the Operating Reserve in the amount of \$400,000 for the Police Headquarters backup generator.

*Discussion:*

In response to a question, the Chief Financial Officer clarified that a motion of Council is required to formalize approval of the use of funds from the Operating Reserve for a specific funding purpose.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion:**

Moved by Deputy Mayor MacMullin, seconded by Councillor Tracey, to approve the transfer from the Capital Reserve in the amount of \$114,800.

*Discussion:*

The Chief Administrative Officer clarified that the money from the Reserve must go back into the community.

**Motion Carried.**

**3. BUSINESS ARISING:**

**3.1 Council – April 20, 2021**

**a) Outstanding Loan Forgiveness – Emera North Sydney**

Jennifer Campbell, Chief Financial Officer, provided an overview of the staff Issue Paper that was requested at the Council meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, regarding the request to forgive the outstanding loan balance owed to CBRM by the Northside Community Civic Centre Society in the amount of \$172,457.40 which has been dormant since January 30, 2017.

The Chief Financial Officer provided the history of the debt and advised Council of two (2) options to consider respecting the debt as follows:

- 1) Forgive the loan in full
- 2) Renegotiate repayment terms

**Continued...**

**BUSINESS ARISING - Council – April 20, 2021 - Outstanding Loan Forgiveness – Emera North Sydney (Cont'd):**

**Motion:**

Moved by Deputy Mayor MacMullin, seconded by Councillor Gordon MacDonald, that CBRM forgive the receivable owed by the Northside Community Civic Center Society for a total of \$172,457.40 and deem the Society eligible to apply for the Municipal Grants Program on a go-forward basis.

**Discussion:**

During discussion, some of the issues raised by Council included:

- Background information on the building
- Financial statements
- Repayment by the Society did not seem too aggressive
- Interest on the debt
- Whether or not forgiving the loan would be precedent setting
- Society worked with CBRM and the Cape Breton Partnership
- Future discussions on how arenas are funded
- The importance of the facility to the community
- Agreements between the Society with Emera (Nova Scotia Power) regarding funding
- Naming Rights

**Motion Carried.**

*The meeting recessed for the day at 4:07 p.m.*

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Mayor Amanda M. McDougall

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Deborah Campbell Ryan  
Municipal Clerk

/acr