



**Town of Westville
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, March 31st, 2014**

Commencing at 6:00 pm

Council Members Present: Mayor Roger MacKay; Councillor Charlie Sutherland; Councillor Bernie Murphy; Councillor Lynn MacDonald

Town Employees Present: CAO Kelly D. Rice; Superintendent of Public Works Samuel Graham; Development Officer Roland Burek; Recording Secretary Vicki Heighton

Absent: Deputy Mayor Lennie White

Visitors Present: A number of Westville residents

Media Organizations Present: 94.1 FM; Pictou Advocate; The News

1. CALLING OF MEETING TO ORDER

1.1 Mayor MacKay called the meeting to order welcoming everyone in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2.1 *It was motioned by Councillor Murphy to approve the tentative agenda and was seconded by Councillor Sutherland.*
Mayor MacKay added HCMS Update to business arising from the minutes and added Tax Sale Resolution to new/unfinished business.
Motion Carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 *It was moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Murphy to approve the minutes of the February 24th, 2014 regular Council Meeting as presented. Motion carried.*

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

4.1 CAO Rice stated council sent a letter to the Premier outlining all their concerns and have asked for a meeting requesting a formal inquiry into the process of closing the school. She noted they are waiting for a reply. Councillor Murphy noted it is important to identify the process that took a year. He also noted it was great to see a lot of residence from Westville and Stellarton at the meeting in Truro.

4.2 Councillor MacDonald asked if the Municipal Alcohol Project could go on the

website. CAO Rice stated it could be.

- 4.3 Councillor MacDonald asked about the REN. Mayor MacKay stated they are waiting for Deputy Mayor White to return to move forward.
- 4.4 Councillor MacDonald asked if anyone from council was attending Clara's Big Ride. Mayor MacKay stated he is planning to attend.
- 4.5 Councillor MacDonald wanted to give a note of thanks. Creative Pictou County applied for a grant and received it. Councillor MacDonald noted the grant was divided between the towns and also noted the town divided the amount between the monument, the fire fighters and the Garden Club.
- 4.6 Councillor MacDonald asked about the municipal boundary. CAO Rice stated they will have the details for the next meeting.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

- 5.1 *Councillor Murphy moved to accept the finance report as presented and was seconded by Councillor MacDonald. Motion carried.*

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 6.1 *Police - It was moved by Councillor Sutherland and seconded by Councillor Murphy that the Police Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.*
- 6.2 *Fire Report - It was moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Sutherland that the Fire Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.*
- 6.3 *Recreation Report - It was moved by Councillor Murphy and seconded by Councillor MacDonald that the Recreation Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.*
- 6.4 *Compost, Garbage & Recycling Report - It was moved by Councillor Sutherland and seconded by Councillor Murphy that the Compost, Garbage & Recycling Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.*
- 6.5 *Environmental Health Report - It was moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Murphy that the Environmental Health Report be approved as presented.*
Councillor MacDonald commented she thought the work was slowing down but seen page two.
Motion carried.
- 6.6 *Transportation Report – It was moved by Councillor Murphy and seconded by Councillor Sutherland to approve the transportation report as presented.*
Councillor Sutherland noted the transportation department started winter duties in November and is still at it at the end of March.
Motion Carried.
- 6.7 *Animal Control Report – It was moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Murphy that the Animal Control Report be approved as presented. Motion carried.*
- 6.8 *Building Report – It was moved by Councillor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Sutherland that the Building Report be approved as presented.*

Motion carried.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations

CAO noted they have submitted their annual report and it is in the office for anyone who would like to review it.

7.2 Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library

CAO Rice read the copy of the letter urging the government to continue directly funding federal-provincial agreements aimed at adult literacy and upgrading. Councillor Sutherland noted that is just one of the many things they do. He also noted they opened during March Break and Westville Library has new hours. Councillor MacDonald asked if it will be beneficial to write Minister MacKay to support the library and Councillor Sutherland stated it would be.

7.3 Pictou County Help Line

CAO Rice read a letter thanking the town for the donation.

7.4 Pictou County Early Intervention

CAO Rice read the letter from Pictou County Early Intervention, looking for a donation of \$3,000.

Councillor MacDonald motioned to move the request for Pictou County Early Intervention to the budget process and was seconded by Councillor Murphy. Motion carried.

7.5 2026 Acadia St.

CAO Rice read the letter regarding 2026 Acadia Street regarding the structure and look. Mayor MacKay stated he does not have an answer and noted it is an issue that has been sitting for some time and they will be looking into the process in the nicer weather.

7.6 Fire Pits

CAO Rice read the letter regarding fire pits and the smell of smoke. Mayor MacKay stated he wished the fire chief was here and is not sure of the regulations. Councillor Murphy asked when they get clarification if they could send out a notice with the water bills. CAO Rice noted they could.

7.7 MORE Run Even 25th Anniversary

Mayor MacKay noted they are starting a bursary at the Nova Scotia Community College and it is going to be the Henderson Paris Leadership Encouragement Award and would like each unit to contribute \$166.67 to the bursary.

Councillor MacDonald moved for it to be sent to budget and was seconded by Councillor Sutherland. Motion carried.

7.8 Community Advisory Board 144 CEF Pictou County

CAO Rice noted the Pictou County Shared Services Authority had a presentation at their meeting by 144 CEF regards to their funding being cut. They have asked each unit to send a letter to the Honourable Robert Nicholson the Minister of National Defense to request they not cut anymore funding. All of council agreed to send a letter.

7.9 VON Thank You

CAO Rice read a thank you note from the VON for the \$2,000 contribution.

7.10 LORDA

CAO Rice read the letter from LORDA requesting a donation for the recreational

specialty park.

Councillor MacDonald motioned to have LORDA's donation request moved to finance and was seconded by Councillor Sutherland. Motion carried.

7.11 Pictou County Roots for Youth Society

CAO Rice read the letter from Pictou County Roots for Youth Society requesting a donation of \$400.00 for their programs.

Councillor Sutherland motioned to have the Pictou County Roots for Youth Society \$400.00 donation request sent to finance and was seconded by Councillor Murphy. Motion carried.

7.12 The Salvation Army – Red Shield Campaign

CAO Rice read a letter from the Salvation Army stating they are having a kick off for the Red Shield Campaign. Mayor MacKay stated he believes in the past they have rented a table and noted if it is the wishes of council they would do that again this year and all of council agreed.

7.13 Pictou County Ground Search and Rescue

CAO Rice read the letter from Pictou County Ground Search and Rescue looking for \$2,600.00 for funding for a new truck. Councillor MacDonald noted this has been brought to council twice and noted it has been referred to budget.

8. NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1 Save Canada Post

CAO Rice noted there was a resolution that was presented at the last council meeting. Mayor MacKay asked for someone from the postal service to speak. Kevin Peterson from the postal service stated on December 11, 2013 Canada Post blindsided their workers and the community as they made an announcement to open a franchise and stop door to door delivery. He noted they plan on opening a franchise in Stellarton and one in Pictou. Mr. Peterson also noted they have been closing corporate outlets and looking at a decrease in jobs. He stated the only year Canada Post has lost money was 2011; the same year they locked out their employees. Mr. Peterson stated he hopes council will support their resolution. Councillor MacDonald asked if Canada Post is listening to businesses saying it was going to hurt them. Mr. Peterson stated he has heard that people are pushing back. He noted that Canada Post held consultations with 46 municipalities and it was invite only. He noted he was told from the consultation there was no mention of eliminating door to door delivery or the drastic increase in the price of stamps. Councillor Sutherland stated the council fought for the Westville Post Office and were able to win it 22 years ago. He noted in those days general delivery was for at least 300 families. Council fought for everyone to be able to get their mail at the Westville Post Office but it did not turn out that way. He stated that Canada Post has not honoured all the agreements that were put on the table at that time. He stated it is very important for every town to have a full service post office in their home community.

Councillor MacDonald moved to adopt the Postal Resolution and was seconded by Councillor Murphy. Motion carried.

8.2 New Regulations for Animal Protection Act

CAO Rice stated there has been draft changes proposed by the government and will have to change the bylaw.

8.3 Gas Tax Formula

CAO Rice noted this came from the Town's caucus and they are looking to change the formula and how it is distributed. She noted the municipalities are receiving the bulk of the money but towns have the bulk of the costs. She stated

she would like to sit down and review it.

8.4 Cenotaph Restoration Update

CAO Rice noted donations have been coming in and she and Vincent Joyce completed an application to government for funding and are asking for the full amount and hoping to get part of it. Councillor Sutherland stated he did not think it would come to this issue. Mr. Joyce stated he hand delivered 55 letters to businesses. He thinks it is a great thing and noted the structure has last over 90 years and has not moved. He noted there will be plaques put up where the names are at now because they were never set in the stone and the steps will be redone and a wheelchair accessible ramp. Mr. Joyce noted he put a letter into the Liberal and Tory Government and they might be receiving a cheque for \$4,000. He also stated that some businesses stated they would match the funds that the mayor, councillors and CAO give.

8.5 Fixed Route Transit System

CAO Rice stated this item came in and was given to each member of council. She noted the questions that have been asked are 1. Did each council rep receive a copy of the report? 2. Was the report discussed at council and noted this would have been some time ago. 3. Where does the report stand, accepted, passed, or tabled? Councillor MacDonald noted they had it in a council package and stated they do not have the money to support it. Councillor Murphy agreed and noted there is a big risk with the cost. Councillor MacDonald noted Westville and New Glasgow tried to revive it but it disappeared and does not believe there is a point to send it to budget.

Councillor Sutherland moved to send a letter to the Pictou County Council of Churches that Westville will not be participating in a transit system and was seconded by Councillor Murphy. Motion carried.

8.6 Parking Lot of Old Chelsea School

CAO Rice stated that it was felt the park should have a name. Councillor MacDonald suggested The Old Chelsea School Park and council agreed. Councillor MacDonald asked if they are still planning a skateboard park. Councillor Murphy noted they are planning a ground hockey and basketball court.

8.7 Westray Campaign

CAO Rice stated she had attended the Westray Campaign and it was a very moving and emotional meeting. CAO Rice read the resolution.

Councillor MacDonald moved to adopt the Westray Campaign Resolution and was seconded by Councillor Murphy. Motion carried.

8.8 Council to Appoint Zac Van Rossum as Fire Inspector

CAO Rice noted they had a discussion and it is part of the shared services department. She noted Mr. Van Rossum is going to pursue more training and to become a level 1 certified fire inspector and they will utilize Allan Morris as a back-up.

Councillor Sutherland moved to appoint Zac Van Rossum as the fire inspector and was seconded by Councillor Murphy. Motion carried.

8.9 Tax Sale Resolution

CAO Rice stated this item was added last minute and the result of the sale was there were no sales. She noted with the Foxbrook Holdings property it is recommended that they move forward with sealed bids. Councillor Sutherland asked if the recommendation came from legal advice and CAO Rice stated it had. *Councillor Sutherland motioned to move forward with sealed bids and was seconded by Councillor MacDonald. Motion carried.*

8.10 Social Housing

Councillor Sutherland noted there has been social housing money freed up and would like council to make a meeting and make it an urgent priority.

9. QUESTIONS FROM CITIZENS

- 9.1** Doug Porter thanked Mayor MacKay for the bus to go to Truro for the School Board meeting.
Mr. Porter stated that Westville has one of the top cenotaphs in Canada.
Mayor MacKay stated that it was CAO Rice who arranged the bus.
- 9.2** Councillor Sutherland welcomed former Deputy Mayor Gerald Jones to the meeting.
- 9.3** Morris Campbell stated Westville, Stellarton and Trenton need to get on the go and get their act together and say the heck with the rest of Pictou County.
- 9.4** Albert Marshall noted the basketball court at the old Chelsea School was well used last year and noted the nets were taken down early and not put back up.
Mr. Marshall asked if council were aware that the Town of Westville owns the school and there is things being taken out of it by the school board. He also noted on April 17th there will be a lot of stuff taken out of it.

10. IN-CAMERA

- 10.1** *Councillor MacDonald motioned to go to an in-camera session and was seconded by Councillor Murphy. Motion carried.*
- 10.2** *Councillor MacDonald moved to return to the regular council meeting at 8:35pm and was seconded by Councillor Murphy. Motion carried.*

11. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

- 11.1** *Councillor MacDonald motioned to adjourn the public meeting and Councillor Murphy seconded. Motion carried.*

Certified to be a true copy of the minutes of the March 31st, 2014 regular Council Meeting for the Town of Westville.

Roger McKey
.....
MAYOR

Nicki Heigton
.....
RECORDING SECRETARY